

May 2, 1979

LB 138

assistance program from the counties to the state.
Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: The question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the House is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Shall debate cease on the Hoagland amendment to LB 138? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion carried. Debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland to close on his amendment.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I would only observe in closing, Mr. Speaker, something all of us know, that in these years of seven percent lids on county governments and on state governments, we're all operating under very severe budgetary constraints. Now as I indicated before and as Senator Warner has indicated before, we have reserved about five million dollars for additions onto the floor and this year's budget within the seven percent limitation. So I think it's clear that we could live with this this year provided this body understands that this will have to come out of that five million. If this body is not willing to take this out of the five million, then we're talking about breaking the bank and then we're talking about exceeding the seven percent lid and I don't think any of us want to do it. And I think also we can probably live with it next year, because we'll have a whole session of Appropriations Committee meetings and we'll be able to absorb the full five percent that we're talking about in this bill before we have to present the budget to the floor next year. But I think to commit ourselves beyond that, as Senator Fowler has indicated, it's really dangerous business. These costs are rising so quickly, we really are not sure what the impact is going to be. I think we ought to take it one year or two years at a time, and we ought to leave the decision about third and fourth year funding off to another legislature at another time when we'll have a clear idea of what available revenues are, of what sort of limitations we're going to be operating under, and what the actual price tag of this is going to be. So I would urge you to adopt this amendment.