

March 31, 1980

LB 722

in a given year and still have competitive bids. That is the principal concern that we need to look at under any set of circumstances.

SENATOR MARESH: Could you describe a little more in detail how this sales tax will be set? Who will determine the percentage?

SENATOR WARNER: It is set exactly, Senator Maresh, as I indicated as sales and income tax are set. Once the Legislature and the Governor has set the level of appropriation, the process would be that when the Board of Equalization meets they would have certified to them as they do now, and the sales and income tax, all revenue that is collected from the cents per gallon, other sources of state user fees, subtracted from the total appropriation that this body approves and the difference would be...of those two figures would be the control of which the Board of Equalization would use to set the rate for the coming year. It is assured. The thing that is the most important is that it guarantees that no more funds are raised for the state highway system than what this body and the Governor will approve for construction during that coming year.

SENATOR MARESH: They will meet only once a year to set this percentage? Is that correct? Or do they meet more than once?

SENATOR WARNER: ...they meet first following the adjournment of the Legislature and then the same provision which covers sales and income tax would be in effect after that. Should the collections be in excess or a 10% or less than 10% of anticipated receipts, it is calculated monthly just as it is with the sales and income tax. They could meet to adjust if not enough or too much money is being raised. So the bill is designed to provide stability to the one year road program as approved, the total dollar amount is approved by this body.

SENATOR MARESH: Is it possible to amend this bill to state that this amount shall be posted on the pump? I am concerned that the public will not be aware what percentage we are setting on this fuel. Do you go along with adding an amendment to...

SENATOR WARNER: To do what?

SENATOR MARESH: ...to post the percentage that is imposed on the pump just like we do the gas tax now?

SENATOR WARNER: I am sure that is exactly what will happen