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FLOOR DEBATE

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districts. And there are also provisions in the bill for the maintenance of attendance centers or protection of attendance centers. There's two levels involved, one requiring that they be left open; another one requiring a 75 percent majority vote of the school board. The amendment that was adopted was important but, nonetheless, technical. It dealt with a number of issues, including such things as date changes and cross-referencing. So I hope that covers it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes, for the summary. Mr. Clerk, first amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hudkins would move to amend the bill with AM0251. (Legislative Journal page 491.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hudkins, to open on your amendment, AM0251, to LB 126.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. The amendment is quite simple. It just delays the implementation of LB 126 for 50 years. We have said all along that this bill is not necessary because the schools are in the process of closing on their own at the rate of one every two weeks. We figure that by the year 2055 there may not be very many Class I's left at all. And if there are, there will be other heads in this body that will look at the overall effectiveness of those schools, the overall educational opportunities in those schools, and they will certainly see that this program is not necessary. I would like to call your attention to a handout that you received this morning, one of three that you have gotten across your desk. I hope that you do read the colored ones. I hope that you also look at the opinion poll from Channels 10/11. They asked, "What is your opinion regarding the proposal to require elementary only schools to merge with K-12 districts?" The possible answers were: should be a local decision, or needed for greater efficiency. Now, I'm not sure who proposed this particular question, but talk about slanted questions. I was just appalled at how this question was asked. But look at the numbers. Should this be a local decision? Eighty point six percent of the participants in the poll said, yes, this should be a local decision, not something