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FLOOR DEBATE

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required for these monthly payments and so on, and do a buy-down so that the cost to the individual school districts would be lowered accordingly. Given what the Legislature decided about that sort of approach, and how much they thought should be invested, and the work of the task force, we decided simply not to do that; that the school districts would be on their own, so to speak, although keep in mind school districts are supported by the state, both in terms of state aid and property tax funding and the like. So school districts do, in fact, have support, but we would allow them to make the best deal they can with the help of the, as I mentioned, the Chief Information Officer and Network Nebraska, and what money was going to put in, and it's mostly lottery money--there's a little General Fund money, but most of the \$3-plus million is lottery money--that would be used to incent school districts to cooperate with each other in offering coursework through the distance education system. I hope that gives you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...a rough idea.

SENATOR BOURNE: Senator Raikes, is this for...is this \$3 million, is there an end...I'm looking at the fiscal note. Is this an ongoing appropriation, or is this a...for several years, to get the infrastructure up?

SENATOR RAIKES: Another good question. Particularly the incentive part of it, I think, is terminated in 2015 maybe, or some such of framework. And the thought there is that, again, its purpose is to encourage school districts to get involved in distance education, and the thought is, once they do that and see the advantages themselves, it won't be necessary to provide financial incentives for that to continue.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, if you could...and I've got a little better understanding as to why it's \$27 million less when you introduced it, but I still...it kind of reminds me of...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Bourne. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Stuhr, on the Raikes amendment.