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give full consideration to this amendment and support me in its adoption.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Stoney's recommendation. I think that we are going to have to stop...start to reassess the position which the Legislature has taken in a number of areas so far as programs in support of political subdivisions are concerned. I think that the state is going to have to take care of a little bit of its own responsibilities and allow the political subdivisions perhaps to deal with their own problems and also consistent with that to reduce the regulations that we impose upon local political subdivisions that force them to spend monies. But in this area we certainly encourage them to develop Driver's Education programs. I think that that is a decision that would be best made on the local level with them establishing their own priorities in this regard without subsidization from the state. Those school systems which believe they have the funds and which believe it is a sufficient priority should go ahead and fund those programs without nearly as much assistance from the state as they have had in this matter. I do think that this is an area where it would be wise of us to cut state spending and to direct those funds perhaps in the next budget cycle to something we believe is more importantly a state rather than a local responsibility. I support Senator Stoney's proposal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I remind the two gentlemen who have preceded me, Senator Stoney and Senator Cullan, that the amount of money that we extracted from increased cost of licenses was earmarked to help support the cost of Driver's Education in the public schools. Those budgets were established, established in good faith that this body was going to meet their obligation, and for Senator Stoney who has implied that the cost and what we have given them has increased dramatically, I would remind you that since the early sixties we were providing \$40 per student who completed the course in defensive driving. Now we are going to give them a sum total of \$80. That is our commitment under the past legislative law if they have Driver's Education. The state average cost for Driver's Education, and we showed these figures to you in April of this past year, the costs to the state were about \$152 per student to carry on that program.