

that first year so there would not be just a year of a flat cap. The first year would be the cap plus the growth factor as well. And I understand, my sense is that we would be able to hold on where we are now adequately at that level of where we are now with that provision in there. However, you are correct, if we don't come forward with the rest of the thing in the time line, there would be stresses on those program levels and we would have to next year, I assume, come back with an extension of that time line because there would be difficulties that we do not wish to create.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But if this bill were put in place in the form that it is now, that cap would be absolute. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: For the year '95-96, that is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. And if that turned out to be less than the amount needed to meet the needs of these students, that money which is available would have to be prorated. You ought to spread it out according to some formula or other.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: They would not have the dollars to meet their needs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And how would that proration occur? Would it be if you've got 10,000 students throughout the state, I'm trying to take an easy number for myself, you would divide the 10,000 into that total amount you have and that would determine how much would be made available for each one of those students?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Actually I think it would be a little bit different. Senator McKenzie may want to add in, but in fact the programs are mandated and many of them may be with the state mandates that we have as well.

SENATOR WESELY: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If we don't provide the monies and they had more growth, they probably will have to hit the local level to find the dollars for that and what you'll find happening is if they don't raise the levy and/or increase the amount of property taxes collected to make up the difference, other programs in the school systems of math, science, social studies and other programs would in fact be reduced, cut so that