

weatherization fund works. It provides money up front so that money can be saved in the long run, and I think that is absolutely legitimate. If you read the newspapers, you will know that technology in the energy area is moving and will continue to move and produce more and more efficient, more and more efficient technology for us to use. If we do not continue to encourage schools to utilize that technology through a loan program, or we do not encourage them to upgrade their existing facilities through a loan program,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...then we will be incurring greater costs over the long term. I don't think it is a sound decision to eliminate this program, the weatherization program. It does, indeed, confer and will continue to confer significant benefits.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, first of all, Senator Robinson, I wish to apologize to you for a misstatement of sorts at the beginning. What I wanted to ask you with respect to the funding of this particular proposition, as I understand it, when you first came forward with this bill in the green copy, the funding that you anticipated and asked for was seven and a half million dollars, basically, over three years, is that correct? Okay, thank you.

SENATOR ROBINSON: May I add a comment? That wasn't enough.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What I wanted to point out, and what I am trying to accommodate here is, and to think reasonably about is, how much money is really needed in this...in this teleconnecting process, and how much money of it should be paid by the local school district, and how much by the state? You know, we haven't even gotten into any of those questions. I guess we have been focusing so much on the weatherization fund, we have never looked at the other side and said, does it make sense to give money to the school districts in these large amounts for this other purpose, and just let it disappear all at one? What