

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 12, 1999 LB 314

open now on your committee amend...or your amendment to the committee amendment? (See Bohlke amendment, AM0710, printed separately and referred to on page 878 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment to the committee amendment is fairly technical. One reason we need it is that I forgot that we would need an emergency clause for any school this year. And, like I said, you certainly heard from one school district in particular that would like to take their case to the commissioner. And this was my oversight in committee. The other things in there, it looks lengthy, but it's because of the section that it amends. But you have that before you, and the most important part is adding the emergency clause. Thank you.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. We have two speakers now. Senator Raikes, did you wish to speak on the amendment to the committee amendments?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah, thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wehrbein, members of the Legislature, I think this would be perhaps an appropriate time to make a few of the comments I wanted to make. I voted against this bill out of committee, and it was a seven to one vote. And I did want to give you a little bit of the...my thoughts about why I voted as I did. The reason is, and Ardyce or Senator Bohlke has explained this, I think, very adequately. There is a 2.777 million dollar fiscal note on this. And this money is what happened to be, I think, an appropriate term is left over from the temporary Mitigation Fund amount allocated...appropriated last year. My concern is that, although I can see that there's a need in this area, is with using that amount and that manner to fund the program. My preference, my strong preference would be to return the 2.77 million that was unused to the General Fund, to do a fiscal analysis, if you will, of needs for this sort of a program, which I think could be done, based on recent experience of schools, and then to begin again with an appropriation determined by that sort of a study. So, for right now, I'll stop right there and maybe offer a few more comments as things go on. Thanks very much.