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March 23, 1999 LB 495, 674A

SENATOR CROSBY: Discussion on 674A? Seeing none, Senator Connealy, would you like to close? He waives closing. The question is the advancement to E & R Initial of 674A. All in favor vote aye; opposed no. Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of 674A.

SENATOR CROSBY: The bill advances. LB...General File, LB 495.

CLERK: (LB) 495, Madam President, introduced by Senator Stuhr. (Read title.) The bill was discussed yesterday. At that time committee amendments were offered by the Education Committee Chair, Senator Bohlke. Senator Stuhr offered her amendment, AM0875. That amendment is now pending, Madam President. (See pages 1104 and 1129 of Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Stuhr, I will give you a couple of minutes to bring us up to date where we are.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Senator Crosby and members of the Legislature. Yesterday, we did have a discussion on 495, which is the Education and Career Preparation Act. A couple points that I would like to bring out today. The purpose of this bill was to allocate funding with grants or by grants to schools for the purpose of improving secondary vocational and technical programs. This money would be used to improve the quality and to enhance the programs, and I really want to point that out because the grants that are presently going to schools in the...through the Innovative Grant Program are also school improvement. There is a need for quality career preparation programs and they cannot continue to exist unless the programs are continually updated; that teachers are provided with some in-service training and that the curriculum is continually revised to include the latest technology. Career programs are high-cost programs because of the laboratory equipment, because of some teacher training and the necessary instructional materials. I do hope that you still have the handout that was handed out yesterday. There were a number of pages in this handout, but if you would look at the very last page, it gives you an example of some modular training that is being done by