

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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the increase from 3 percent to 5 percent and the cover of...covering medical expenses. With that, I ask for your adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All of those in favor say aye...or vote aye; all of those opposed vote nay. Mr. Clerk, record.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We are now back to discussion on the advancement to E & R Initial. Seeing no further lights, Senator Bohlke, would you care to close on the advancement motion?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members, I think we've had a very good discussion. Certainly going back and looking at the history of what brings us to this point at this time, asking for the increase from 3 percent to 5 percent, I would like to remind you that the actual increase in costs to school districts is 6.7 percent. And so we are recognizing that we are changing the cap from 3 percent to 5 percent, so we will still leave school districts with the burden of coming up with the other percentage increase. I think that Senator Kristensen pointed out something that's very important, and Senator Wehrbein also, that we are making a major commitment, and I say that today that as we come to the end of the session we have set a priority. And when we, as Senator Kristensen says, we come to the end of the session and we have many other bills that have significant A bills, I believe that those who support LB 1243 are saying we are giving this a priority status. I am also, as I said to Senator Kristensen, have been very proud of the Legislature when we have been able to demonstrate a significant need so that the appropriate education is available to all students in this state, that we have given that a priority. Certainly, special education students, we have seen an increase in the number in our schools. We've talked about medical advances, but we also have to recognize, as I'm sure many of you are aware of, fetal alcohol syndrome, crack babies. I have visited schools recently where we have had kindergarten children who are violent because