

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

February 25, 2000 LB 715

cost rather than a school cost in some...in some attempt to capture those kinds of costs. The idea that we have a scale to determine per pupil costs on is somewhat attractive to me because the per pupil cost does, indeed, vary from school to school without regard to whether or not a particular district is frugal or is not frugal. It does have something to do with the basic size of a district and whether or not you can run a school with the basic requirements that we have for accreditation and good management of the system as a whole. You have to have administrators. You have to have teachers. So it does...those costs do change as the size of a school changes. Our current system, where we attempt to reduce those costs or account for those kinds of costs in a less refined manner I think could very well be adjusted. I'm aware that the printout that Senator Raikes has distributed causes people concern because it has particular impacts on their individual school districts. However, I think at this stage of debate that we're...it's incumbent upon us to give Senator Raikes and his ideas the benefit of a doubt. He's indicated that they're still being worked on in terms of an analysis from the Department of Education, which may turn out to have different results than what he's presented to you. That is normal, I would say, when we ask the Department of Education to run our ideas through their process. Whether it would be substantially different or not I can't tell but, of course, it could...could turn out to be different. And if we still thought that the results that were obtained from that analysis did not meet our perception of what our policy objectives ought to be, I'm assuming and believing that it is possible to adjust components in the proposal that Senator Raikes has brought to us and perhaps achieve something more like the result that we wanted within the policy framework that he brings to us. It is...it is, as much as anything, I think the policy framework that he brings to us that is what we should vote on, on General File, and in many respects I find that policy framework a very attractive one.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Further debate on the committee amendments? Senator Bohlke, you are recognized to close on the committee amendments.

**SENATOR BOHLKE:** Mr. President and members, I think Senator Wickersham made some good points. In fact, Senator Hudkins and