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make some general policy comments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Raikes, on the advancement of LB 1107. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I just wanted to maybe reemphasize a couple of points. First off, the discussion, to some extent, has gone along the lines of whether or not we are supporting our schools, and I would say this is almost a discussion or an issue to parallel to that. The current state aid formula sees to it that needs of students are met. This is primarily a property tax relief measure. This simply focuses entirely on how much property tax you're going to use in order to supply those financial needs to schools and, to a large extent, it is a nonequalized property tax measure. We are generally dropping the levy to everybody, so it is not really addressed on the...to a certain extent certainly the aid formula is equalized, but when you drop the local effort rate in the formula it is pretty much a nonequalized event. It affects every taxpayer regardless. The ones that are nonequalized may be a separate discussion. We've kind of gotten both...a couple of extremes at least presented, namely that we want to keep control in the Legislature of state finances, which is certainly a valid argument and, going along with that, percentage changes here from 45 to 46, or 44, are big financial numbers, as is changing the minimum levy penalty from one cent below to five cent below. Those amount to big financial numbers. I would remind you also that without this bill or with this bill at a number of, say, 50 percent, the state is going to kick in an extra \$89 million in the next certification to replace local property tax support at school levels. The issue there is whether we do 89 or we do another 13, or another 26, or whatever the number might be. I do think that it's...it's a good idea, as I've said, to make these numbers explicit, that we...we are cognizant of how much support of local schools comes from proper taxes. This is an issue that have we...we have explicitly identified that we are concerned about. What I...what I'm beginning to think, though, is that it makes sense to proceed slowly here, to let's...let's do the \$89 million and then let's let that dollar levy limit operate for a year or two and then move on from there. And, of course, if you move on will depend upon what happens to...to valuations. If valuations increase