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SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. This amendment is the one that caps the amount to be paid for teachers, who become nationally certified, at \$1 million. We'll be shortly passing out to you information with the revised amount, should this amendment pass. And this will decrease the amount needed for the first and second years of the program and will give you an assurance that we will have limits on it so it isn't an open-ended bill. The way it works is when we hit 133 teachers who are certified, we currently have 8, so it will be a few years, then they would divide the award among the group. The other thing it caps is the number of registrations that we'll pay for in a given year to the first 40 people who sign up. And then after that they would either apply for the next year's funding or seek another source. So that's what this amendment does and I urge the body to adopt the amendment and then we can get on with debating the full bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you for that, Senator Thompson. We will now discuss the Thompson amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1399. The lights that were on over the lunch period, when we recessed, was Senator Bohlke and Senator Lynch. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I hope that over...Senator Tyson, I know I gave some reading material to over the lunch hour so that he could be a little more familiar with the Master Teacher Program. I certainly think that Senator Thompson has worked to assure that the initial adoption of this would have limited fiscal...fiscal ramifications, and I would hope that you would adopt the amendment and we can continue as we have the materials ready to give to you, to show you how significant and important this portion of the bill really is. As I said, Senator Tyson, when I was beginning, I did give you some information that I will be coming back over and retrieving. But I do think it does an excellent, (laugh) maybe not, but it does an excellent job. If any of you have questions, certainly I told Senator Tyson I agreed with him on his remarks about the ability of teachers to get their knowledge across to students is not the ability that everyone just naturally has. Once they have finished their training and have all the knowledge, the real challenge is walking into that classroom and being effective in sharing that