

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

April 6, 2000

LB 1004, 1401

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 1004 to E & R for engrossing.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Question is the advancement of LB 1004 to E & R for engrossment. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The bill is advanced. Mr. Clerk, LB 1401.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to return the bill for specific amendment. (AM3272, Legislative Journal page 1559.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your motion.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, the amendment is on your computer. And I passed out a couple of handouts to you that relate to the topic I wanted to talk about. The topic is limited English proficiency and how that's treated in the state aid formula. And I think there are some problems developing in that area and problems that maybe indicate we should take a look at the entire state aid formula with regard to how it's administered and audited. The problem that came up, I thought I could get far enough into it to actually refine and suggest to you a solution that I would ask you to adopt this morning, but it is too broad and I can't get enough information in a short period of time. So, it will be a matter that I hope the Education Committee can look at next year; I certainly will be interested in looking at it. But here's the problem, let me start with the state aid formula. The state aid formula says limited English proficiency is a factor in the state aid formula and, to the extent that you can identify students in your school districts who have limited English proficiency, you get an extra .25 times the formula for each one of those. So, you're getting more money, obviously, for each...for each student you can identify in these categories...in this category. Now, how do you determine if a student has limited English proficiency? Well, under the...under our statute again it says that you look to the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Education, in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And from that has come this little piece I've handed out to you, entitled "Appendix A,