

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

April 10, 2000 LB 1213

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bohlke would move to return for AM3234. (Legislative Journal page 1497.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to open on your motion to return LB 1213 to Select File for specific amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. We are now back to the bill that, when I originally opened, saying that I did not think we would be able to do. As I said, Senator Wehrbein seems to have a solution. This was a bill introduced to the Education Committee that goes to the issue of the incentive payments for schools wishing to merge, consolidate, or unify. As you know, it depends on the size of it, the amount of money they get per student. More students that are part of the unification or merger, the more money that the district receives. And so, as I had indicated, there were two problems. One was the amount of money, and two was that time was running out. Originally had said the amount of money, it's easy to understand, and I think other senators want to speak to that, what has happened is schools have gone ahead, have planned, have gone out to people in their communities, and have said, this is what it could mean, and because of that, this is how, financially, it impacts our district, and have gotten public support for that. With the amount...the number of unifications being planned, we knew that the money was running out. The bill...the original bill had said then it would be prorated, which means that they would get much less, sometimes maybe perhaps half the amount. So this bill reinstates the incentive money, and it had a new fiscal amount. What Senator Wehrbein...how he is amending it would change that fiscal amount. Ours had an A bill, a cost to it. We had indicated that that would probably meet with a veto. Senator Wehrbein said that he had discovered the amount of money that had not been used in the Hardship Fund that you voted for last year, that we could transfer \$2 million from that to this. So if you will advance...when we get to it, advance LB 3234 (sic--AM3234), and then Senator Wehrbein's will be a separate bill that we will do following that, and that would allow...give the Legislature the authority to transfer the money from the Hardship Fund to LB 1213, as amended. There's some discussion about the amount