

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

January 13, 2003

myself or you or Senator Schimek or someone else, rather than the Appropriations Committee? Is that your objection a little bit to this, to this proposed change? It kind of gives us cover as a member? Senator Raikes, if you would...

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, yeah, and thanks for the question. Because my concern is or my belief is that, as members of the Education Committee, we are responsible not only for that group of statutes that deal with education, although certainly any other member can introduce ideas that will be considered, that is something that the committee itself needs to take leadership at an early stage about making the hard decisions, and that includes decisions that may be unpopular. It also includes making sure that the relevant statutes that may be involved in a crisis situation such as we have, or one...a crisis that may be different, are opened and so that during the normal bill introduction there is pressure for me, as a committee Chairman, and everyone else who's either a member of a committee Chair to fully take recognition of the situation we find ourselves in and to make sure that the appropriate proposals get on the table. And I don't think...I don't think that pressure should be lessened. I think...and I understand that once introduced under this proposal that a bill would go to the committee and be voted on by members of the committee. That's not really the point. It's a question of whether or not the committee itself takes responsibility for introducing that, or puts that responsibility off to somebody else, namely, the Appropriations Committee. And I think that's an important difference.

SENATOR HARTNETT: But your committee...Mr. Speaker, if I could ask, but your committee still would have the final say, as the Education Committee, as it related to state aid, if that's the issue.

SENATOR RAIKES: As I understand...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...the proposal, that's right, Senator.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah. So you're still going to...you still