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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on LB 67.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is the Department of Education annual technical bill, and let me give you a quick overview of the discussion. I'm going to describe for you what is in the bill, although hopefully not in more detail than you really want. The second thing is there is a committee amendment, a technical committee amendment to the bill, which we'll discuss. And then, finally, assuming things proceed well, I will have an amendment to offer, a floor amendment, post the discussion of the committee amendment, and you have that. That amendment has been filed and, in fact, I think you have a copy of that amendment on your desk now. So let me hit some of the highlights of the technical bill. As is the usual case with this sort of bill, there are a number of different items involved. I'll touch on a few of them. I certainly don't want to dissuade your scrutiny of the bill. I hope you will take a close look. And I'm not going to spend a lot of time, though, and if you do have questions, if there's something that puzzles you or you'd like an explanation of, why, please, please raise the question. Among the items, it allows more bonding authority to districts with a large amount of tribal land. That's one of the items. Allows the State Board of Education more flexibility in defining terms. Again, I think that's consistent with current practices. Deals with school fees. Allows a school system that does not collect any fees not to provide a fund to receive fees. That was something that needed to be changed. For unified systems, allows the school board to meet as few as two times per year should they choose to do that. Changes some...the filing period for special education appeal and allows some flexibility for those in the appeal process. There's a provision to allow Class I districts budget authority if, in fact, there's a breakdown of communication between the Class I and the affiliated district. Skipping on down...by the way, I am taking this from the committee statement, which is on your machine. There are some changes in requirements for special education plans and budgets. There are some changes also, which may be somewhat confusing, about the