

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 6, 2003            LB 394

I think is in line with what has been the longstanding policy of the Legislature, to follow the general pattern that no new...that reflect...and is reflected in the language on page 2, that no new school district shall be created unless such district provides instruction in kindergarten through grade 12. We've been trying to encourage that. The Board of Education has been trying to encourage that. I don't want to do anything that would encourage the breakup of Class II's and III's necessarily, and the creation of more Class I's. So I wanted to return to the former law. That's all this is about. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on AM0704, offered by Senator Beutler to LB 394. Open for discussion. Senator McDonald, followed by Senator Raikes.

SENATOR McDONALD: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body. And I think I need to reiterate that this is not going to create more Class VI schools. But the change was part of the request brought to me by the Class VI school association. Sixty-five percent of the vote isn't required in other school elections, so why is it required for the Class VI school reorganization votes? LB 394 still gets a higher standard than a simple majority by requiring 55 percent of the school patrons to approve; the same number of votes we require to dissolve a school district. I support this amendment. It just makes it a little more difficult for it to pass in local areas. But I will support it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Raikes, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would like to ask Senator Beutler a question, but I'll background it a little bit. I understand from your comments, Senator, that your concern is that this change, this proposed change in this bill, would make it easier to create an additional school district, which may move us in the opposite direction from a policy goal, held by many for a long time, of actually having fewer districts in the state rather than more. Is that a fair statement of your concern?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond?