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April 24, 2003 LB 540

amendment then replaced that...those provisions in the green copy totally. And that will...I'll stop there with my opening on the bill and we'll talk more about the committee amendment then in the introduction to that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on LB 540. There are committee statement (sic), as said by the Clerk. Senator Raikes, as Chairman of the committee, you're recognized to open on those committee amendments by the Education Committee.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President and members. The committee amendment is the bill and includes the three provisions that I mentioned and, again, are summarized in the two-page handout...or actually single-page handout printed on both sides. The first and certainly one of the most, if not the most, significant parts of it deals with funding K-12 schools in the biennium for which we are now trying to make a budget. In effect, what is being proposed is that we are going to, compared to what normally would be the case, with the normal certification procedures, we are going to reduce the total bill or the total amount of needs for school systems actually in each year of the biennium. So the total price tag, if you will, is going to be reduced. Then the second provision is that, of that reduced total of funding that would be available, we're going to change the burden. We're going to have relatively more of that burden covered by property tax than would be the case if we left the certification as is now, and relatively less of it would be...less of the burden would be covered with state aid. And obviously the reason for that is that we're in a situation with state funds that we need to cut back and try to make those state funds go as far as we can. The specific provisions that carry out those...or carry us to that result, if you will, are really two main things. First, the minimum...or the maximum levy available to school systems would be increased from the current \$1.00 to \$1.04, and that would be the case for both fiscal years in the upcoming biennium, the budget biennium, 2003-04 and 2004-05. This is the maximum levy prior to any exclusions or overrides. Now keep in mind, and I should have mentioned, the provision that we...LB 898 that we passed in the last regular session, was in effect a three-year proposal. We are leaving