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SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I just would like to visit with Senator Raikes in a minute if I...for a minute, if I could.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Raikes, I appreciate the work you've been doing on this piece of legislation, but I do have a couple of questions and I hope you can give me some enlightenment. First of all, you talked about low-spending schools, and I would like you to explain to me how you determine low-spending schools. I mean, what's the factor that determines whether a school is a low-spending school or not?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, it's based strictly on the needs calculation in the state aid formula, and a school system that spends less than needs, and of course a need...there is a needs number or a needs calculation for each separate school system, one that spends less than that calculated needs amount is considered a, for purposes of our discussion here, a low-spending school system. And then there is, of course, a range of how low spending, and that determines how much of the 0 to 2, or what we have proposed, a 0 to 3 percent range they would pick up in budget authority.

SENATOR VRTISKA: The reason I ask is right now there is a provision for a low-spending school. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: And this continues on except to raise the amount. Is that what you're saying? It raises it from 0 to 2, to 0 to 3.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. It...in effect, the proposal we have would increase the increment of additional budget authority, if you will, by 50 percent. It would go from...for the lowest spending school system, instead of an additional 2 percent, they