

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

April 24, 2003 LB 540

look at it is with 2.5 percent of budget authority. The average spending increase in the past few years has been somewhere between 5.5 and 6 percent. So reducing spending authority from 2.5 to 0 is probably more nearly taking it down to something like 3 to 3.5 percent. And the reason for that is special ed funding, is interlocal agreements, is student growth, is the 1 percent optional budget authority and those other things that I mentioned.

SENATOR HARTNETT: But, Senator Raikes, some of that, you mentioned special ed, you've kind of taken that off the table, but interlocal agreements is kind of outside the budget though,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...the limitations.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Janssen and others. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Hartnett, I'll make just a couple of quick points here and then allow you to continue your questions. First off, I didn't quite get finished talking about the community college provisions that we have included here. Again, there is a formula, so to speak, for community college funding. There is a need, if you will, for community college funding determined, and that's based on both students and a 2 percent inflationary growth from year to year. The notion is that that's going to be funded with 40 percent property tax, 40 percent state funding, and 20 percent tuition. What we are proposing here, and again this is keeping in mind that community colleges, particularly in this last year or two, last year especially, have had significant increases in enrollment. We're taking out the 2 percent inflationary growth, so in a sense we're being comparable to what we're doing with school systems, dropping that basic allowable growth rate to 0 percent. We're taking out the inflationary growth but allowing student growth, and then only for the amount of money that they are shorted in state funding would they be allowed to pick up that additional funding