

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

April 24, 2003 LB 302, 540

through a higher local property tax levy. So that's the third provision. It was introduced as LB 302, if you'd like to look at the committee statement and so on. The other thing I'll just reemphasize, we have, I think, as a committee tried to work closely with the Appropriations Committee, I think for good reason. We may have not made their lives simple, but we at least tried not to pile on. And in terms of their preliminary budget proposal, as I mentioned earlier, we took that quite seriously and tried very hard to fit K-12 funding, which obviously is something you can't ignore because of the size of it in dealing with the budget situation we face. We tried to accommodate what they seemed to indicate they would be able to deal with as far as K-12 funding. I've worn our Senator Hartnett. Oh, Senator Hartnett, would you like to continue your questions?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Raikes. One of your statements that you made there, you said even with the 0, schools could go up 2 percent, 3 percent. Is that correct? With these...

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, it would obviously depend on the particular school system because the budget authority to them varies for a number of reasons.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah. Have then...and then you...I think you implied, and maybe incorrectly, that school budgets have gone up 5 to 6 percent over the last couple of years, or is that...

SENATOR RAIKES: Spending increases have averaged around 5.5 percent in the last, you know, two, three, four years.

SENATOR HARTNETT: What's caused that, Senator Raikes? Is it...

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, there are a number of good reasons. Certainly just, if you remember, for example, a couple years ago, there was a considerable effort to address teacher salary issues in Nebraska. There's been concern around the state, and was concern, that our teachers' salaries were low compared to