

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

April 24, 2003 LB 540

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Raikes, looking at the financing of life safety codes, indoor air quality, and mold abatement and prevention, are those projects, you are allowing them to go without...they would be within the levy limits to expand the levy on that, on those projects? I know mold is going to be something that is not going to go away, it's going to get worse, along with other fire/life safety code projects. How much is that now that they were going...

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, there is currently in statute a provision for up to 5.2 cents of levy authority, bonding authority, if you will. A school board can identify a project. There's a fairly rigid procedure they need to go through. They need to have a public hearing. They need to identify exactly what project is or, you know, what the details of the project are. Then with the board, having met those requirements, they are allowed in current statute to go ahead, bond that project and carry it out. Currently, the only things that are allowed, and I don't have a complete list in front of me, but...what do I...what's the proper term for...if you need a wheelchair to...pardon? ADA, what's ADA stand for? Pardon? Accessibility barriers, that's what I...I didn't have the right word. But this would simply allow some additional types of projects to be treated in the same fashion as ADA. So mold, if the fire chief shows up and says, look, the building is not safe from a fire standpoint, and then the indoor air quality and mold would also be types of projects that would now be considered. So all I'm trying to say is the mechanism is currently there. All we're doing is expanding the types of projects that can be handled within that mechanism.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Okay. One other question, and then I'll give you the rest of my time, Senator. Special ed will not count on the allowable growth?

SENATOR RAIKES: Special ed, Senator, is not restricted in terms of budget, so it's outside the budget lid, if you will. And, in fact, Senator Hartnett asked about why do we have such increases in spending of 5.5 percent and so on. One of the reasons is that we cap, at the state level, state support for special ed funding so, to the extent...and pay only about 70 percent of it.