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FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2003 LB 540

Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, first, I want to commend Senator Raikes for all the work that he's done on this, because it's been hard to explain it. But anyway, with that, I'd like to ask Senator Raikes a couple questions, if I may.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you respond?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR JONES: Yes, when you say that they can't go over the 2.5 percent budget, you put it back down to 0 and then you say it might be 5.5 to 6 percent, is special ed figured in that? I think I heard you answer awhile ago that that's kind of a mandate and also that the local school districts are stuck with that with 30 percent and we pay 70 but it's a year behind. Is that right?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. Yes, I think you got that right, Senator. It's the cap is 5 percent increase for state support at a statewide level, and then what you do is schools, in effect, turn in their bona fide or accounted special ed expenditures. Say the total with the cap for the state is \$150 million and that's the cap. The total expenditures are \$200 million, which would mean that 75 percent of the expenses then would be reimbursed. The other 25 percent schools would have to fund themselves and then that would show up in their spending, which would impact state aid two years down the road. So that's roughly the way the system works and I think you had it described correctly.

SENATOR JONES: Yeah, and they wouldn't have to..it would be a year late before they get their money from the state.

SENATOR RAIKES: That's true. The 75 percent in the example is actually paid a year in arrears.

SENATOR JONES: How much has special ed been increasing over the years at an average rate? Do you have that figure?