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FLOOR DEBATE

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clear, in the budget bill that will be offered by the Appropriations Committee, there is money for the current structure which includes the three programs, plus \$4 million of lottery money for the second year. So all of that will be money in the budget bill, the Appropriations Committee's bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And a good chunk of that money is going to go to purely religious schools, isn't that true?

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, if you look at, I forget which number it is, but you've got the sheet that's Estimated State Grant Distributions by Sector Under LB 574. If you look under 2003-2004, in whichever group you happen to be interested in, there it shows for private the first year, 62 percent of the funds would be...would go to students in private institutions. The second year that drops to 53 percent. The third year it drops to 49 percent, the fourth year 44 percent, and the fifth year or the full implementation, the fifth year and beyond would be 40 percent.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How can they be guaranteed 40 percent after full implementation if all the money goes in one pot? Is it still going to be kept in discrete amount in that pot and set aside for these different categories?

SENATOR RAIKES: No. No, and that's a good question, Senator. It's not guaranteed. This money is going to be distributed according to the distribution of Pell eligible students. So if you had a situation where the percentage of total Pell eligible students in the state were represented, say, in a much greater proportion at public universities five years from now than what they are currently, then that would be reflected in the distribution of funds. The basis for distribution in this proposal is the student. The student makes a choice as to where they want to go and the money follows the student to the institution.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So it's not going to be done the way it is now where money is put with these institutions trying to speculate about how many students will come there. This money will all be in a pot, so to speak, and a student qualifies to