

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 29, 2003 LB 407, 540

that it does not get adopted, but I do appreciate your at least coming up with ideas and I hope you will pursue this next year through the hearing process and things of that nature. And I don't want to discourage you. Again, I don't think this is the best idea, but I do appreciate the fact that at least you're offering suggestions to try to solve this. This is a huge problem, it's significant, and I do appreciate your willingness to think outside the box. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Senator Maxwell, I'm going to apologize in advance for this remark, but I want to encourage you. I assume you figured out that it was cheaper to advertise in the Legislative Journal than in the World-Herald, and so I would encourage you to continue to use the Journal. (Laughter) Along those lines, I think your input on this is certainly valuable and valued by me. I would encourage you to introduce a bill next session to have that appear before the committee. I can assure you we'll schedule a hearing and these ideas can be evaluated, not only by members of the committee but by members of the public, and for something as broad and far-reaching as what you seem to be suggesting, I think that's the only appropriate thing to do. I would tell you that I will, in defense of the mechanism we now have in place, I know it's easy to criticize, it's an involved construct, but it's sort of over a period of years the best we could do to sort of represent a consensus on policy regarding education or funding of K-12 education. Now, we have had to make some changes, but as you argue that that is a fault or an indication of weakness of the system, I would argue that it is a strength; that the changes we have proposed in LB 540, for example, are ones that are sensible. We're in a tight situation so we're going to further restrain school spending. We're going to, therefore, lower the total tab for the cost of K-12 education and, in addition, we're going to have to count on locals, governments, local property tax payers to pay a relatively greater share. It's not particularly tasteful, I will readily admit, but I think it's something that we have to do and it's something that the formula has allowed us to do. The other thing, you mention the out biennium, certainly if you