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April 30, 2003      LB 796

LB 796.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, can I show that the record reflect what I said ten minutes ago (laugh) for this bill?

SPEAKER BROMM: Well, you might have to say it again, Senator.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: LB 796, sorry, I'm on the right bill now, provides that the amount required for school breakfasts may be prorated if the appropriation is less than the amount required by current law, and the required reimbursement now is 5 cents per breakfast served. Our recommendation by the committee is to appropriate \$271,378 of General Funds for school breakfast reimbursements. The recommendation is a 10 percent reduction in the amount of funds appropriated for this purpose. This bill allows the amount appropriated to be prorated among the schools claiming reimbursement if the appropriation is insufficient to fund all claims. Now that last sentence really says it all. Since we have cut the total funding for this, the loss, so to speak, to the schools we've prorated among all of them to the point that it is satisfactorily...adequately funded at that reduced level.

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

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. This was a committee that was...or, excuse me, a bill that was referenced to the Education Committee. The committee advanced it by a vote of 5 to 0. Five is a good turnout for us. I think Senator Wehrbein has explained it well. Without this bill, then if there are more breakfasts served at 5 cents per piece than uses up...what the money provides for, then I believe there is a deficit appropriation required, so this eliminates that. Allows the cost to be prorated, as he said. So I support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Any further discussion? I don't see any. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close. Waives closing. The question is the advancement of LB 796. All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay.