

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

May 7, 2003

LB 540

Nebraska Legislature. I was receiving e-mails on it on April 22, and it wasn't filed until May 1. So I apologize that your thunder was stolen a little bit, Senator Bourne. But I would like to ask you a couple of questions, if you would yield.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Yes.

SENATOR ERDMAN: First, let me say that I would agree with your intent. I do have some questions about how do we get there. How would this affect any school district that's making a decision today? RIF notices had to be out by April 15, and those could largely be argued as a result of action taken by the Legislature under TEEOSA. Would this be retroactive?

SENATOR BOURNE: No. This...

SENATOR ERDMAN: (Inaudible)

SENATOR BOURNE: ...amendment would not affect the districts that have already made cuts that were of that nature.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. So the impetus for this is that you're trying to address not this year's budget for schools, but probably next year's budget?

SENATOR BOURNE: I'm trying...right. It's...I'm trying to say that when the cuts take effect that are going to cut...are going to come through our appropriations package, and modified somewhat by LB 540, when those cuts take place, this amendment be also in place in order to minimize the cuts to the classroom. Or, as Senator Smith said, to the front line, if you will.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Okay, I'll ask you another question. On line 7 of your amendment, after "expenses", it says "as a last resort." Is that a concern, as far as how do we define that? I mean, could the argument be made, what Senator Wehrbein is saying and what Senator Cunningham is saying, about...I guess your opinion is it should be tight, we should be restricted, we should be forcing decisions to be made outside of the actual