

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

May 7, 2003

LB 540

any alternative. Put another way, do you really want to create a new basis for litigation, whether a district made the legally correct decision in cutting their budget? And that's what you're getting into. Either you're forcing them into legal...into decisions that may force them in court, or...and who knows, you're making an interpretation where the thing is really meaningless. If you're going to say things like "supplies," which Senator Beutler says, well, surely you mean supplies when you're talking about expenses for the classroom. This specifically excludes supplies. Read the language. It's right there. So if that is somehow included, where is the line? And I think this is all a subject for litigation. So perhaps we should consider an amendment to the state aid formula, which I know you all dearly love, that would provide additional funding for schools for litigation on budget decisions, because I think that's where you're headed with it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Your light is next.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd call the question.

SPEAKER BROMM: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question then before us is whether we shall cease debate. All in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BROMM: Debate does cease. Senator Bourne, you're recognized to close on AM1616.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate the debate. I...actually, I had talked to Senator Raikes about this before I introduced it. And he said, well, I'll be mildly opposed. (Laughter) If that's mild opposition, wait till he gets ahold of my next amendment. Listen, I appreciate the concerns here. And it's interesting to me. I've been in the Legislature five years. It's interesting to me what a well-organized group with a blast e-mail type system can do to generate what I would call the Chicken Little syndrome. And I'm not trying to be critical,