

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

May 8, 2003

LB 540

handing out a chart that will help illustrate this, and maybe with some questions we can kind of flesh this out a bit. But say, for example, spending was, in the year 2002 to state aid to schools was, say, \$500 million. Under the Raikes formula, . . . which, again, I support. I not criticizing that. I'm just offering maybe a way that we can track this a little bit differently. Under the Raikes formula, that \$500 million would remain stagnant for the next four years. And what my amendment would do would actually track the rate of growth over the four years. So, say, we had 3 percent growth, and in the year 2002 we had \$500 million worth of state aid to schools. And it's actually more than that but I'm trying to keep the numbers round. Well, in 2003, if you've calculated at 3 percent rate of growth, we would have state aid at \$515 million, and then in 2004 it would be roughly \$531 million, and then in 2005, assuming again a 3 percent rate of growth, it would be about \$550 million. And so what, again, my amendment does is allow us to track what that growth would have been instead of just saying that, at the end of three years, it still . . . or excuse me, at the end of four years, it's still \$500 million. So again, it does not change the appropriation. It simply allows us to track what that appropriation would have been. And while Senator Raikes, I appreciate the work that he has done on LB 540 in helping minimize the impact on schools and on our children, the reality is, is that LB 540 doesn't control costs whatsoever. It just implies that it does. So if our spending today is \$500 million a year on TEEOSA, even though the needs increase over the next four years, four years from now our base will still be \$500 million. And so all I'm allowing . . . or all I'm asking for under this amendment, and again it is confusing, is to allow us to track what that growth would have been over the four years rather than actually fund it. Now that's it in a nutshell. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. You've heard the opening on AM1757 to LB 540. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Senator Bourne's amendment, he has explained it