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LB 407, 540

would go out to the K-12 school districts; don't matter what they do in the school district. Is that right?

SENATOR RAIKES: That's correct. It would be...it will be...there would be \$8 million less of state money that would go out to support local school districts in the form of state aid, TEEOSA aid.

SENATOR JONES: Yeah, okay. Thank you. I'm still concerned a little bit about the \$16 million there that we're going to send out, or not send out anymore, and the university is taking 13. I'd like to see them a little closer together because K-12 schools, you know, is hurting across the state. And I realize the university is hurting too, but I still think that they should take the same as K-12's do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would urge you to seriously consider this proposal, this amendment. And just making a brief comment on what Senator Raikes is having to say, I just heard that for the first time just as you did, and I'm certain that what he is endeavoring to do is to make it as accurate as possible so that there is no misunderstanding as to what it is that would be done, and it will require a certain amount of mechanics in connection with the LB 540. But let's look back at what has happened in connection with the university, as an example. In the special session, November of 2001, we cut \$11,200,000 from the university system. On the regular session in April of 2002, we cut \$4.5 million from the university system. And in the special session in August of 2002, we cut \$15 million. The effect has been a \$31 million cut that's already taken place in connection with the university system. And, by and large, we have tried very hard to keep K-12 as whole as we could. Now what is being proposed for you today is a proposal that is generally in agreement among the various parties, and if you take \$16 million and spread it out over the entire state K-12 system, you see that as a difference in taking it directly from a university system, which is a one-entity system. But I think we have to