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one or LB...or, AM1881. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Janssen on the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Looks to me like we are once again putting the ball back into the local school districts' courts. A dollar five, four...five, whatever it is, that levy does not mean that you will automatically have that levy within that school district. And I've said this before. It's likely, but there are some schools who really have to fight to get up to that dollar now. I know what's happening. They're putting money back aside somewhere, into a rainy day fund, or whatever you want to call it. And that's in case they get into trouble. The boards...the school boards are accountable. They're accountable to the constituents of that district. And this body and the federal government have made mandates upon those schools. And we've added to that. We've added to the problems that they are having and they're witnessing right now. We've demanded things of the schools, and said, look, you're going to have to do this. Some of those demands were warranted, and others I wonder about. But we have put the burden back on...we've been responsible. This body has been responsible for some of the demands we have put on the schools, and forced those levies to go higher. Do schools have fat they can trim? Certainly they do. Some of them, they're very lean. But there are districts out there that can trim, just as this body has to do on occasion. But there are some of them who can hardly make it. And they have the ability to override those levies. And another thing I want you to think about a little bit. What would the schools be doing, the public schools be doing now, if we hadn't have put the rule of 85 in place four or five years ago? That has allowed some people to retire, and let new, younger teachers come into a system. It's been a godsend to a lot of school districts. Yet I remember, when that was done, how some people on the floor would say, you're losing all of that great experience. Well, when a teacher gets to that age and that many years of service, you know, sometimes their frustration sets in. And very few teachers wait and go above that rule of 85 before they retire. There are first-,