

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

March 22, 2004 LB 1093

talking about the kids. All of those are talking about the schools. And as I've mentioned before, when we start riffing teachers, and that's happening, particularly in our rural areas because of the declining enrollments, that we are affecting the kids. We're...some of us are saying, well, this isn't about kids, but it is about kids. And actually what we're talking about really is the 2005-2006 school year. Again, if we knew and if those schools knew the levy limit that they were going to have, they could plan more appropriately. And this is very difficult for schools when they have to start riffing teachers and not having that certification and not knowing. We can come back next year and do those other out years and change those if we need to. As I said before, earlier we were talking about...before 1998, we were talking about levy limits of \$1.70, \$1.80. Go back and check and I think that you will see that. Where we picked out of the sky that \$1.10 was going to be the magic number, I don't know. I haven't seen that research. I know that our rural schools and those schools that are having declining enrollments are having a very, very difficult time, and many of those are the schools that are overriding the levy limit right now. With that, I hope that we can come to some compromise and I will be supporting the \$1.07 and I will give the rest of my time to Senator Raikes. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Pederson, you're recognized. I'm sorry, Senator Raikes, I believe, you have the rest of Senator Stuhr's time which is about...close to two minutes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, thank you, Senator Stuhr and Madam President and members. Again, I know this is confusing but keep in mind that some of you have been talking about, well, okay, if we allow school boards to go to \$1.07, we change the levy lid, in other words, so the school boards could levy as high as \$1.07, we're somehow allowing school boards to be off the hook, so to speak, or to spend wildly maybe or whatever you want. The notion is...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...that we need to be conservative. We need to