

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

April 2, 2004

LB 1091

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I've been discussing with Senator Raikes a situation in my legislative district where we actually have schools that are...that are voluntarily going forward with a consolidation, and actually are, but would be below the 390 mark. In the event that they would consolidate I believe they would be around 350 students. And I'm looking at this. Now I think it's important that we do provide some incentives, some opportunities there. For the sake of the body, I'm just trying to rise to figure out exactly what their situation is or their best case scenario, because I believe that there will be other school districts in my area or throughout the state that may be impacted by this. And Senator Raikes and I have been discussing the difference between, obviously, if a school is in a standard cost grouping versus another sparse or very sparse, and how that would be impacted. So I'm in the process of trying to get some more information. As I gather that, depending upon the time this morning, I may have some further questions. But the other thing that I think is interesting is the two school districts that are merging or consolidating have...either one or one of them has a override currently on the books, and when they merge they lose that, because you can't force the other school district to accept an override that they didn't vote for. And so I'm sensitive to what happens when you merge those two school districts in the event that they were operating under a certain amount of revenue and then how does the merger impact them as well as how does the lack of opportunity to secure such consolidation incentive funds affect them. So I'm trying to gather more information this morning and hopefully I'll get some of that before we end the debate on AM3480. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, I wanted to rise and talk about this a little bit. I think I'd like to have a little conversation with Senator Raikes, if he wouldn't mind.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.