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April 2, 2004 LB 1091, 1105

SENATOR ERDMAN: The amendment here is, what, is LB 1105. Is that close in the drafting as far as what the committee heard? In other words, the amendment before us is...once was...

SENATOR RAIKES: I'll take your word for that, Senator. I don't remember the...

SENATOR ERDMAN: It was a bill in the Education Committee that was not advanced.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, that sounds right.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Was there...I guess I'm trying to seek to understand why the committee didn't advance the bill. I think...I think it's important...

SENATOR RAIKES: Is that...

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...that we have it, but I want to know was there a discussion about...

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, Senator, it's a good question and the answer is that at that time it had already become apparent what the state's fiscal situation was. We had...I think LB 1105, if you look at it, it is, in fact, a General Fund, a direct General Fund impact. I guess the idea came, at least to me, somewhat later that probably, if you're...if you're going to use lottery monies, education lottery monies, this is a good use and probab...even though it does have a financial impact as maybe you and Senator Wehrbein have pointed out, the longer term net benefit pays. So we didn't advance it because of the fiscal impact, but as I got to thinking about it later it seemed to me to make good sense that we use lottery funds rather than diverting them directly to the General Fund, as has been going on now I think for three or four years. We would...we would divert just a little bit less so that we could use part of those monies for this purpose.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. And I would imagine that if we would have known there was \$4 million over there, we would have probably used that as well in previous years, but I understand