

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

April 2, 2004 LB 1091

we pulled it back, and thinking that they would do it maybe on their own, and maybe it's important that we do this. And I think I still agree much more with incentives more than forced consolidation, and I do agree and appreciate that you've taken off the unification part of it, because I really question how much that's done, I mean how much good that has really done, when it should have been maybe consolidation in the first place instead of unification. Was really just a step for you to...or for the schools to get together, to start working together just to see what could be done from that point, I think. So thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I waive.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler waives his opportunity to speak. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Members of the Legislature, thank you, Mr. President. I guess I just wanted to share a couple things, and then I'd have a question of Senator Raikes, I guess before I share that, if he would yield to a question. Senator Raikes, as I read...or as I look at what's going on, so I'm clear, if AM3480 would pass, it would apply to those districts that had made the decision to merge for the '04-05 school year, even though it won't go into effect till July of '05 as far as the policy. Is that correct? In other words, does it apply retroactively, or does it say starting July of '05 anybody that is in the standard grouping and would merge to a size of 390 or greater would benefit?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator, if I could, let me clarify that, and if you have some other points you want to make, go ahead and I'll try to rejoin you.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. Actually, let me do that. Here's the situation that I look at. I represent eight counties in the state of Nebraska and, as I look, generally every county has