

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

April 2, 2004 LB 1091

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, and again...

SENATOR BOURNE: And again, let me, if I could just interrupt, my intent is, is to, once we turn around financially, is to stop dipping into either, any of the lottery funds, whether it be the Environmental Trust or the Education Innovation Fund. But again, and I'm not criticizing, but it seems like the Education Innovation Fund is a real convenient source, that we constantly go there and we don't go to other lottery sources.

SENATOR RAIKES: And that's a fair point, Senator, and let me remind you that going back, I think, two years ago, there was \$8 million of education lottery money that went into the General Fund. We reduced that last year by \$4 million because we decided to use \$4 million of it to support need-based aid. Okay?

SENATOR BOURNE: Right, and I went along with that. But my point is, is we have taken \$8 million out of the Education Fund and the Environmental Fund has only contributed something like \$3 million over the same time period. And I'm just talking about equity. You know, we constantly hear that the voters set this up so that it goes to education and the environment and, yet, it's okay to divert from education but somehow it's not okay to divert from the environment. And I'm just trying to assess the potential exposure through the consolidation plan, and if we're going to continue to hit the Education Innovation Fund and no other source.

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, I can't really argue with the basic point you're making. I think it's a valid point. I would tell you that I do believe that this use of those monies is certainly, well, in my view, is consistent with direction of the monies toward education. I think people could argue with that. I'm not disputing. And the other...the other point you make, though, about what...what's happening with environmental side of the lottery monies, if you will, I certainly hear what you're saying. I don't know that I have a lot to contribute on that.

SENATOR BOURNE: Right. Thank you, Senator Raikes. I appreciate it. I see a huge difference between Education