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February 10, 2005 LB 126

SENATOR RAIKES: Which? The AM0354?

SENATOR HUDKINS: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. It is technical. There is...the first part is a date change from September 1 to September 10, and this would accommodate the statements from Class I districts about how they're going to assign property. The second one deals with an issue whereby if you have a Class I school district that has zero students going to an affiliated district or affiliated K-12, there is no provision in there right now for what you do with the property in that instance. There could be two ways that would happen; is one is that they simply had no students...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: I'm sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins and Senator Janssen, Senator Raikes. Senator Byars, your light is up, followed by Senator Engel.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. This is an extremely emotional issue and extremely political issue. I can certainly understand those people who are advocating strongly for Class I schools for all sorts of reasons. They believe in the quality of the education that the students are receiving in those schools. They see uniqueness as far as geography, demographics is concerned. There are a lot of reasons to be supportive of not closing Class I schools. As a member of the Education Committee over the past two legislative sessions, I've been very ambivalent on this issue. I have waffled back and forth and, with a lot of hesitation, have come to the conclusion that I am in support of LB 126. It was not an easy decision to make. I had a lot of input from...I think I have three Class I districts in my legislative district. All of the parents who are educating their kids in those districts are very adamant about the fact that they want their kids educated there and they don't want us to mess with that, and every one of them reminds me that they vote. And that's why I say it's political, because I think many of the legislators in this body are faced with a