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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, about 35 seconds,...

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...if you wish to use them.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you. I'll try to finish quickly with the amendment. And, again, I mostly would offer to answer questions. This...there's another provision to correct cross-references. There also is language in there that would help the administration from the standpoint of the Property Tax Administrator. And, finally, there is some date corrections for certification of budget authority for Class I school districts. So I think all the issues are, indeed, technical here. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. We're discussing the Raikes amendment, AM0354, to LB 126. Senator Friend, followed by Senator Smith and others.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, a lot of people stand up, start going into how they feel about the bill, where they stand on it. We're...this is early. We got a long way to go. I know how I feel, but I'm not going to tell you. What I am going to do is share a couple of things, share a story, a couple of stories. Actually, it happened twice to me. Two different people: one actually not a constituent, just an average citizen; the other one more of an advocate for Class I schools. The conversation went...both conversations went...they were pretty similar--the positives, the positive approach, the positive things that Class I schools can do. Set class size aside for a second. Focus, parental focus, the focus of a curriculum; teacher empowerment--some of the positives that everybody looks for in education for their kids. Both these people pretty much wrapped up their conversation as I sat there, and I said, you know what--and there were some negatives and they brought those out, and Senator Raikes and everybody on this floor could speak to the negatives--but the positives, I said, that sounds great, that's awesome, I'm open-minded about this. But you know what? I get