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tell you, is going to be the main effort of the Education Committee during the interim, is to work on this task force and to try to figure out what it is that is most appropriate for the state to pursue in this regard. I will also add that we want to do our best to get all the people involved that could be helpful in providing both the technological and other expertise we need in order to figure out the best way to go. Finally, that's all emphasized by the fact that, as you might suspect, this is not free.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, you are now authorized as chairman of the Education Committee to open on AM0403, the committee amendments.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. We did get this amendment down that I had promised so I will get that turned in quickly so that you can see what I am talking about. To continue on, this is somewhat...the bill itself is somewhat of an unusual request in that we have a task force that is going to be convened to address a problem of technological upgrade involving a great number of schools in the state. The scope of the task force is going to be a couple or three things. One of them is the actual technological system that we should employ that should be put in place. A second important thing is organization out there that carries out this technological framework. Now we have ESUs, we have distance education consortia as well as individual school systems. It's my belief that we don't need to keep all of these separate entities in place in order to carry out this function. Finally, I will mention that another problem the task force needs to address is that of incentives for schools to participate in distance education. Along those lines, I'll point out to you that, as you know, the obligation to provide a free instruction in the common schools in Nebraska, constitutional obligation, falls basically at the state government level. We authorize the creation of school districts, ESUs and other entities to carry that out, but the base responsibility is with the state. If we