

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

April 5, 2005

LB 689

discussion, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, first of all, let me start by saying I support this bill. I support the whole idea. If there's one area where I think we should continue to be as much in the front as we possibly can be, it's in the area of K-12 schools, and I think the K-12 schools around the state should have all the equal advantages when it comes to distance learning or to the most advanced technologies. I'm very willing to spend this kind of money. Having said that, Senator Stuhr or Senator Raikes, I'm not sure...Senator Raikes, since we're on the committee amendment, although this will not be directly on the committee amendment, let me ask you what the plan is.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: And let me lay out the bottom line right at the beginning so you're aware with all questions what I'm circling around. We've had some bad experiences with broad technology applications. And one of the most recent ones was the attempted application to police communications and that whole fiasco. And from our various experiences, I want to be cautious in terms of knowing as much as we can about what it is that's going to be done and why it's going to be done and why it's the best way to go about doing something, especially when it's something that involves a total expenditure of \$25 million to \$30 million or whatever. Under this bill, and I want to ask you about some of the specific language here, but you indicated that there was an intent to come back to the Legislature, it says here, for recommendations, for policies and potential legislation. So through the period of January through April of next year, we're going to be dealing apparently face to face with various policies and suggestions that are being made by this task force. And yet, under the A bill, we're being asked to commit \$8 million to this project before it is that we know and, at least for myself, can feel comfortable with the fact that this large expenditure of money is being made in the best way possible. The main question is, since you're coming back to the Legislature anyway, and since we need to know what's going on, is there any reason we can't drop the \$10 million out of the