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

April 5, 2005 LB 689

in that there is a great deal of forward progress being made in the area of virtual learning, of e-learning. There's some...our focus in the state currently is the synchronous classrooms, I guess is what I'll call it. I'm guessing that because some people have and are finding that useful, it would be...you would certainly want to maintain that option. But in addition, you would as well want to expand virtual education, if that's the proper term, e-learning, and so on. I would suggest to you that another issue that needs to be brought in in the task force is that of providing some sort of a statewide platform from which to implement, manage, operate distance education technology. There are software packages out there. I don't know very much about them. Blackboard, or ANGEL is one. It simply makes good sense, I believe,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...that the state could purchase this and implement it on a statewide basis, rather than certainly school-by-school, or even ESU-by-ESU. That is another function that I think would be very important for this task force to examine. So again, I think she makes very good points. In the last few moments, I will tell you that I would urge you to adopt this amendment. One of the things this amendment does do is strike the appropriations intent language from the bill. So this creates the task force. The appropriations issue is left to the A bill, which will come up next. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Thank you, Senators Redfield and Raikes. Senator Wehrbein, on AM1084.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm not going to be able to cast much light on this, except to make a remark. And I just respectfully suggest that perhaps this bill either should have been divided, or should...and I guess we're going to end up doing that if we change the A bill, or...but one of the awkward parts here that we're discussing is the actual appropriations of money. And in my mind, this properly should have gone to the Appropriations Committee. Historically, that's where equipment, capital investments, and those kind of things would have gone. They