

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

April 5, 2005

LB 689

equipment can no longer be updated or used. It's like an old computer, so to speak. It's my understanding that whoever they have the contract...the schools have the contract that provides the service and the equipment. And it's just like something that wears out. And so that equipment is going to have to be replaced. So that's where we're getting some of the cost.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you, Senator Stuhr. That is a real concern of mine. You know, if we're going to have a contract with some telecommunications, or some software company or something like that, that's going to need an upgrade every couple of years, I have a real question about that because, you know, what I viewed in my local area seemed to be working good. But, you know, if that contract is up and you can't utilize that equipment again, but you have to pay a lot of money to start another program or another upgrade, then I don't know. I can't quite see the total dollar value that we're going to be sticking into this. So I'm going to listen. I'm very interested in the distance learning part. But I have a real question about the dollars that we're going to spend. So, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute. Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, since we started discussing this matter, I have been visiting with our Legislative Fiscal Office to see how we could handle this matter. And it's my understanding that these contracts extend for a period of, I think, eight or nine years, perhaps. And the first ones start to go in expiration. And if in fact what we have is a study, we can fund the study and not fund any other matters connected with this, and then next year come back and fund an amount that will replace those that are off-line or are going off-line, so that it's a new expenditure at that point. We're not replacing existing things; we're treating that as a new expenditure. And we could go forward that way and not have an A bill that's an indeterminate amount. We will know by the time we get ready to do an A bill what it is. And next year we can treat the issue, I think, with a bit more information than we have right now. And perhaps, hopefully, we will have enough money to fund what is being proposed. Senator Raikes