

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

April 6, 2005 LB 38

colleges in terms of state funding. So that may be 1 cent, it may be something other than 1 cent.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. I just want to know exactly what we're talking about in the bill. And I'm comfortable that the Northeast is \$500,000 a year for two years. And I do agree that it corrects a disparity that Northeast has been treated...I don't want to say unfairly, but treated differently from the other community colleges, districts. Is that right?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah. Based on their decisions about expenditures in a base period, which I think was '96-97 or something, yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. And then Senator Heidemann mentioned the 1 cent extension. Now, could you clarify that for me, Senator Raikes?

SENATOR RAIKES: Again, I think he's talking about...we currently have the provision that with a three-fourths majority vote, and so on, a community college board could elect to make up the shortfall in state funding. And Senator Heidemann and I talked about, well, how much money is that? Well, if you look at the shortfall--and I'll try to get you that handout, I don't think I have it available for you right now--it amounts to about \$25 million a year. It starts out this year something less than that, and gradually increases. This, again, is an assumption, if we continue doing about like we've done in the past. So if the community college areas decided that they wanted to make up all that shortfall with an additional property tax levy, it would...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...the additional property tax statewide would be about \$25 million.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, but what you're...

SENATOR RAIKES: History suggests that they've done less than that.