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LB 425

3.2 plus 6.7. It's only about \$3.5 million in the out biennium. So by and large you're transferring an obligation, particularly if you note from the fiscal year 2008-2009...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...to a current year. In most budget scenarios we've faced since I've been in here, that's not something you'd want to do, but it is something we want to do in the budget situation we face now. We are better off budgetwise to transfer obligations from the out year's to the current year's, and that is what funding special education at its full 5 percent rate does. So that's an advantage in addition to the two I mentioned before. I think this is an appropriate thing to do. I will mention in addition that among the programs that we discuss in terms of budgeting, there are a number of excellent potential programs that come up. Some of them, although excellent in my view, do not fit in the narrow range of programs that are absolutely required...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...by government. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on the Raikes amendment, AM1432, to the Appropriations Committee amendments to LB 425. Open for discussion, Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Raikes and I have visited about this for some time and trying to determine just exactly how to handle this. Special education is something that's with us. Under our law, we can go to 5 percent so it's 0 to 5 percent. And in the Governor's budget, it was zero, and we didn't think that was appropriate and we didn't think that that was going to serve the best interest of either the school districts or the long-range budget situation. Five percent, if you look at it...the reason we went to 5 percent a number of years ago was because they were going over 5 percent as far as special ed was concerned within the school system. And as I mentioned yesterday when I started talking about things that we did, this is one of those items