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LB 126

elementary building, in effect, the protection would continue. There is another level of protection also, though, in the event that a building would not meet those requirements. And that involves requiring a 75 percent majority of the school board to take action to close a building. There, the distance that would need to be met drops down to four miles. Finally, I will mention that no building would be closed without at least a majority vote of a K-12 board, so that, again, to repeat the point, there would be no mandated closing of any school building as a result of LB 126. And in fact, the thrust of the bill, in terms of all these provisions, is in exactly the opposite direction. I'll move quickly on to that, and of course, offer to answer questions as you have them. Another point that was brought up at the end of the General File discussion was financial impacts on districts that would be moving from Class I-Class VI to Class IIIs or K-12s. Two areas there. REAP funds--these are rural economic...something funds. I've forgotten the "A" right now, but I can come up with that if you'd like. These...this is a federal grant program that makes schools eligible to receive funds if they have less than 600 students. So you can see on the bullet point, I hope, that there are six Class I systems that would lose those funds as a result of this. And we are proposing that those funds would be made up to those districts. And so there is an A bill that would provide that amount of money. The second area of financial impact that I'll mention right here is transportation. Currently, there's a mixed bag across the state of required provision of transportation expense to high school students. This would make it optional for a school district to provide transportation for a high school district...or, for high school students throughout the state. It would make it similar from Class I to Class V. Everybody would be the same. It allows a great deal of local autonomy. If you now provide that transportation and want to continue it, you could do so, and it would be on the same basis, in terms of reimbursement. If you wanted to discontinue doing that, that is allowed, and the reimbursement mechanism stays exactly the same. Or if you wanted to go halfway in between, to provide, say, for the first two years of high school but not the last two, this would all be a local decision. Currently, you may...