

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

May 20, 2005

LB 126

Nebraska, Madison, Nebraska, I'm sure Lexington, where the local school district patrons have a hard time passing a bond issue, for many reasons. And this is...addresses that. There are cons to this, on several different levels. We are dissolving what has worked so well for so many in education for a very long time. Class I school students are tremendous, just like we have tremendous students in our Class IIIs. This is a system that has worked well across Nebraska. That is a big loss for the entire state. There's also a by-product of what we're doing here in an effort to create a K-12 system, that will cause problems for the K-12s, and one issue that I intend to address, and that's when you change districts and their boundaries by dissolving a Class I and sending the kids either where most of the...or, sending the land where most of the kids go, or affiliating it with the Class III that they're affiliated with. We're going to have some K-12s that lose valuation, and then they turn to a state aid formula that is unpredictable, and they don't know what to expect. When they tie their income to the valued land, that is a constant that they can expect. And I will be back with other senators to address that. And finally, in the cons, we worked quickly on this. The devil is in the details. I am concerned that we don't fully know every consequence of what this type of an education reform has in it. And I hope that over the summer, as administrators, parents, and communities look through this final product that is passed by this Legislature, we can work toward solving some of the problems.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FLOOD: The final thing I have to say, and that would be a message to the school districts, the Class I school boards, the patrons of all the school systems affected by LB 126--we know this is a contentious issue. If you come to the table and refuse to negotiate or to cooperate, the kids lose. We have worked with Senator Raikes with that in mind. And if Class I school districts or their K-12 counterparts refuse to work in good faith, you will have problems, communities will divide further, we will have lawsuits. I hope that's not the case. That's not good for Nebraska, and that's not good for those kids. So I hope that the rest of Nebraska negotiates in good