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LB 126A

things will be needed, but it appears to me that it wouldn't necessarily entail all of the provisos for money. Senator Raikes, would you comment on that?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you...?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes, I would...thank you, Senator Pederson...in two ways. One of them is, there's a cap. It can't be more than \$650,000. And the second thing is, it can be less. It's whatever the Appropriations Committee...well, the Legislature--the Appropriations Committee would certainly recommend to the Legislature. May well appropriate a lower amount of money. And if, in fact, that's what they decide to do, there's a mechanism in the statute to prorate that among the schools that would be eligible.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you. I appreciate your comment. I support LB 126A. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, you may continue, if you...

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think maybe, in response to the questions directed by Senator Heidemann, I've made most of the comments I want to make. Again, this is something that we have agreed to do in the spirit of accommodation and compromise. It was not a part of the original bill, but it's something that is important, I think, to achieve an orderly transition to get us to the K-12 organization to deal with the financial impacts. This particular bill deals only with the upcoming biennium. It is up to \$650,000 in that...the second year. Nothing in the first year of the upcoming biennium. It is...this is right down the line of what it is we need to do. What it is, is our responsibility as a state government. We are responsible for K-12 education. We delegate a lot of that to K-12 districts. We're suggesting here a reorganization of those districts, which I think makes eminent sense. So to the extent that we...there are financial requirements associated with that transition to a different organizational structure, it simply makes good sense that we do that, and that we fund that. So on that grounds, I again ask for your support. And if Senator Heidemann would like