

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

May 25, 2005

LB 577

over just exactly how fast the program does expand.

SENATOR MINES: Okay.

SENATOR RAIKES: And obviously, you could make statutory changes. I don't know why you'd want to do that, necessarily. But you know, the program operates for three years, and then in the fourth year, the four-year-olds go in the aid formula. I suppose you could change that, in addition. But even if you didn't change that, the fact that you make the money available for the Early Childhood Grant Programs, and then only once...only...once those programs are funded with grants and operate successfully three years, after that, four-year-olds become eligible for funding in the aid formula.

SENATOR MINES: And I'm not trying to pick this apart. I'm really interested. How is, then...how is it...who measures and how is it measured whether or not the programs are successful, whether or not they're meeting whatever expectations are set by whomever that might be?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yeah. There is, actually, a considerable amount of scholarly work that's been done in the area of evaluating these programs,...

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...determining the level of quality, and so on. We rely very heavily on the Department of Education to do those evaluations. And they have done them, as I mentioned, on the existing grant programs, for now approaching 15 years on some of the oldest ones. So another nice part about this is, we are not having to embark on a brand-new effort to entrust brand-new people...

SENATOR MINES: Right.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...to do a regulatory effort.