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participate in that. If they do, there is money available to them in the form of incentives for participating. In addition, there is help to the school district to buy needed equipment. The updates in the software and so on will require additional equipment, so there's help there to do that. In addition, there would be a change in the state aid formula that would provide that the money received by a school district for providing coursework to another school district would not be an accountable receipt, so it would be real money to the school district, and in addition, there would be a new allowance in the aid formula that would more or less equalize or normalize the transmission costs from more distant schools, as compared to closer schools. All in all, the approach is to provide considerable flexibility to individual school districts, to eliminate some of what I think is the overlapping organizational structure that we now have, and perhaps most important, to provide a clear incentive to school districts, that we would like them to participate in and share their academic resources among each other. I will just mention quickly that the bill covers both the so-called synchronous distance education, where you've got classrooms in different school districts that are conducted at the same time, as well as asynchronous, or the more on-line distance education offerings. I think it's extremely important that we move forward. As I say, it's an opportunity that is there with our fiberoptic network. It's extremely important that we take advantage of that opportunity and get school districts involved. So with that, I will urge your support.

SENATOR CUDABACK: There are committee amendments, stated by the Clerk. Chairman of the committee, Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on AM2565.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. To a large extent I think I've covered the committee amendments in what I've already told you, so I don't know that I need to repeat any of that. There is some detail. I did neglect to mention one thing, and that is that there was a very good summary of the bill by one of the task force members that served. It was sent in an e-mail, and I think that is either coming around to you or has come around. It provides some of