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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a question from Senator Fischer?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR FISCHER: Senator Raikes, as I read this amendment, I have a number of concerns, and perhaps you can clear those up for me. What is the purpose of the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program Cash Fund?

SENATOR RAIKES: That, Senator, is a fund that I guess you could say receives lottery money that will later then be used to support the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program. And that program, you probably know as well or maybe better than I, is one that would provide loans, forgivable loans to teachers in selected shortage areas. The loan would be forgiven if the teacher not only teaches in that shortage area, but stays in the state for a certain number of years.

SENATOR FISCHER: Which areas are defined as shortage areas?

SENATOR RAIKES: That is to be determined by the department, according to the regulations in the bill. And I think it's a flexible list. As shortage areas or needs change, that list can be changed.

SENATOR FISCHER: So the people that would qualify, the teachers that would qualify, that would be determined by the Department of Education?

SENATOR RAIKES: The areas, yes.

SENATOR FISCHER: The areas.

SENATOR RAIKES: And in fact, the department is also...carries a heavy administrative burden in terms of going through the applicants and that sort of thing.

SENATOR FISCHER: How are the dollars going to be distributed for the forgiveness of those loans?