

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2006 LB 385A, 1024

advancement of LB 385A. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 385A.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 385A does advance. (Visitor introduced.) We now move on, General File, 2006 committee first priority bills, LB 1024. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 1024, introduced by Senator Raikes. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10 of this year, referred to the Education Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President. (AM2687, Legislative Journal page 1332.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Raikes, you're recognized to open on LB 1024.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 1024 is the Education Committee's proposal to deal with the metro area school organization issue. I'd like to use the time I have to open on the bill and on the committee amendment, to first background the issue for you and then to describe the provisions of LB 1024, as it was introduced. Next I'll focus on the committee amendment and the very significant work the committee has done to bring the original bill to its current form. The bullet sheet that is coming around will be my guide in describing our current proposal. It dawns on me that maybe I should have sent some aspirin around, too, in case you need it in working your way through this. We have made, I think, a great deal of progress in resolving the issues we're called upon to deal with, but we have not been able to resolve them all. One that remains is the subject of the amendment to the committee amendment, offered by Senator Pat Bourne. It's my hope that we can come to a decision regarding our state policy on school district organization and make the needed statutory change. At this point, doing nothing serves neither the interest of the affected school districts nor the state. The issue we attempt to address in LB 1024 came storming onto the scene in June of last year, when OPS, Omaha Public Schools, proposed to expand its school district boundaries to the city