

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

April 4, 2006

LB 1024

permit the takeover of established schools. We do provide for an organizational alternative that retains the formal commitment of all citizens in a metro area to the education of all kids in the metro area but also allows for multiple schools districts, each efficiently sized and with significant autonomy. We also address the statewide funding issues, with modification of the state aid formula. More about the proposal, and I'll start with the green copy. Central to the green copy of LB 1024 is a new form of ESU, which is titled, A Learning Community. A learning community would be responsible for ESU functions, but in addition, would provide interdistrict governance. Members of the learning community would be local school districts, with most of the autonomy and authority they now have. The governing board of the learning community would include a member from the local elected school board of each district. Voting would take into account each district and the percentage of total students represented by each district. The emphasis would be on requiring member districts to come to agreement. All students would be considered residents of the learning community, enabling them to attend any school within the learning community that has capacity, and transportation would be provided for any student who chooses a school outside his or her attendance area. There would be a common operating levy within a learning community, eliminating the need for option funding or other cross-district compensation for student mobility. Each school district, however, would be responsible for its own budget and would be a separate recipient of state aid. Decisions about staffing, curriculum, and other matters of school operation would be local. School building projects would jointly be undertaken by the learning community and local school districts. A school district would propose a building, and the learning community would decide whether to fund it, based on an assessment of the total building needs in the learning community and funds available. The source of funds...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...would be a common levy available to the learning community board. The levy would provide for existing boards, as well as any new capital construction funds. The common capital levy would eliminate one financial hurdle to the