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LB 1024

end product. The committee worked very hard and made some significant revisions to the green copy, and those are highlighted in the sheets you have titled, "LB 1024 Committee Amendment." I'll go over those quickly, emphasizing some of the changes. First, learning communities beginning September of 2006: The date for the initiation of the learning community coordinating council was moved up a year, so that discussions could begin and plans could be made. There's also a provision in there for a convener, a facilitator, authorized under the Secretary of State. In the original bill, the vote requirement was 50 percent of the voting members and 25 percent of the students. We increased that to one-third of the students. In the original proposal, ESUs were going to be reorganized and actually serve as the coordinating council. In the committee amendment, ESUs are not involved. Also, there were provisions in the green copy for a common levy related to new buildings, capital construction. That is out of this proposal. So the levies are common levy, a special building fund levy, and a learning community levy. That's the next topic on your bullet sheet. We changed the operating levy so that it's actually a two-part levy. It has a common part to it, plus there's a discretionary part available to each school district. And again, I'll mention that the common capital construction levy is out. It's important for me to note that the combined levy cap, the way we have it proposed right now, is \$1.10, rather than \$1.05 that is outside the learning community. We did take the special building fund levy out from the operating levy cap. School district boundaries in learning communities, we changed that, in that what we say now or what the committee amendments says is that the geographic size of districts with more than 25,000 students could not increase. In the green copy, it would have required the redrawing of district lines to reduce the size of a school district with more than 25,000 students. This simply says that the size, the geographic size of that district could not increase. There are several points about open enrollment and transportation in learning communities. This is... I'll let you read those, but I would mention that those are very important parts of this proposal, because I think that to a large extent the ability to enhance educational opportunities for students is in that area. That's where we have, as it is on the back page, focus schools and programs and learning