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LB 129, 1024

communities. I think that's also very important. There are, in addition to leveraging requirements, there are several reporting responsibilities for the learning community coordinating council; reports on diversity of students, academic achievement of students by demographic groups, and the extent to which students enroll outside their own attendance area. There's also a requirement that at a certain point, if there's not sufficient movement of students and diversity of students in buildings, that the board would be required to submit a plan for reorganization under the Learning Community Reorganization Act. There is a high-needs coordinator for the state that's included here. This is basically to gather information and direct efforts, provide counsel for school districts that are trying to develop programs to serve high-needs students, particularly poverty students, students learning the English language. Finally, there's a significant section on school finance, and this was added in the committee amendment. This was not addressed in the original green copy. Very quickly, what we're doing here is trying to direct more funding for students that are being served, high poverty students being served at the elementary level. In particular, a change is made in the state aid formula to direct more funding, specifically for students that are served in class sizes of 10 to 20 students, high poverty students. This is an area that the committee agreed was one deserving of more funding. I will tell you that the net cost of this state aid change is about \$24 million. A couple other points about that: In the original proposal, green copy, we proposed to eliminate net option funding statewide. The committee amendment does not do that. Net option funding is effectively eliminated in the metro area simply by the design and financial arrangement in that learning community, but otherwise in the state it's not affected. Finally, LB 129, a bill which some of you know and are interested in, one that is a reformulation of the needs calculations, the state aid formula, was not in the original copy, was actually in an earlier version of the committee amendment but now is back out. We've stuck to the basic 806 needs calculation because, quite frankly, it would have simply had more complication to something that probably doesn't need more complication. So I hope that that gives you a rough idea of what we're proposing here. As I mentioned, we've come a long ways, I think, in terms of garnering agreement among