

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

April 11, 2006 LB 1024

SENATOR RAIKES: This has been a part of this whole discussion. Is this a knee-jerk reaction? Does OPS end up divided into three districts tomorrow morning if this Legislature would advance this bill? Absolutely not. A final plan wouldn't be in place until December of 2007, almost a year and a half, more than a year and a half away. And there is ample opportunity in the meantime for all kinds of input, public and legislative, to address this issue and make whatever changes are needed. As a matter of fact, this whole bill is that way. There is nothing that happens quickly. All you do is move forward the point to begin the negotiations. We begin them, instead of with total boundary uncertainty the boundaries are certain. We begin them with the notion that there is going to be a learning community formed and that school districts will, in fact, have to work together.

SENATOR BAKER: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Wehrbein followed by Senators Connealy, Stuthman, Mines, and others.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm supporting Senator Heidemann's amendment. And I'll speak only for myself but I reject totally out of hand that any of the cloture votes or anything where, up until now, has anything to do with how I think, Senator Bourne. And I resent that; I know you're making a broad side but that does not include me. I have some districts that are hurting, this helps. And I think it's important. I accept Senator Raikes' position on that and I follow accordingly. I haven't said a word on the OPS issue. But I have said since December that I thought that we were probably going to have to do this in special session. I don't know where that's at this day but I think we have to focus. And I think it's unfortunate that this all came to head within the last week. We needed a little more time to digest some of the things that were being said. But I think it all started last June when we got the bombshell dropped in Omaha and have them totally deny that they did not discuss any of this until June 4 and all of a sudden it fell out of the clear blue