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FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2006      LB 1024

an enhancement aimed at the concerns expressed by OPS that integration was not adequately dealt with and, in particular, there were not sufficient teeth, so to speak, in this bill, in LB 1024, to ensure the participation by school districts. This was our best attempt to address that issue. So there you have that one. I'll mention also and I'll yield some time to Senator Chambers so that he can talk about this one, in terms of the Chambers amendment to divide OPS into three districts, there's a change in the language so that instead of it requiring that there be a division into three districts along the lines...contiguous and along the lines of community interest, it simply says the three districts will be contiguous. It leaves out any specific...or strikes the language relating to a community of interest. There are also some technical amendments and this is certainly a weighty amendment. I'm not going to try to tell you anything differently. This is a significant, as several of you have already mentioned, change in or address of state policy. There are many provisions. I think you have a handout which more or less summarizes those. As we deal with the specific parts, I'll certainly attempt to address questions you may have. I'll yield time I have left to Senator Chambers if he would like it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there is a very thick amendment that is before us. It contains all that has been done to the bill up to this point, with the addition of the information in this smaller handout containing 20 pages with the initials in the upper right-hand corner, RR 25. Senator Raikes mentioned another part that was supposed to be in the amendment which I think may not have been included in that thick one. And if it has not been, I will amend that. The language "community of interest" is a term of art. Some people are not aware of what that means. Is it vague? Is there something secret in that? So rather than go through all of that, I will just eliminate those words "community of interest." They are not essential. There is nothing secret about them, but rather than have them be a cause for questions or wondering, they can be taken out because we still have the two or three high schools and their attendance