

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

January 24, 2001 LB 313

unification, which I do support.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Excuse me.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Coordsen, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Coordsen, excuse me.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, first of all, other than the first \$5 million, it becomes increasingly more difficult to predict, with any degree of certainty, what the demand might be because we're not at this point in time able to guess, Senator, which one or others might...might go ahead and finalize their...their merger or affiliation and become eligible for this. What this becomes then is a cap. And as the current law provides whatever money there is in the fund and you have some control over that I rather suspect, going into the out years, is prorated among those schools that are eligible. Each school is eligible for a sum based upon that particular formula. Whether they get that amount or not depends on the amount of funds that are available and the number of schools. So that always exists. It's not an open-ended appropriation, but what is not predictable is how much of...of...for an example, they provide for \$5 million in 2002 and 2003. We would, according to the information I have, think that that should be enough. But it may not be enough and it may be too much. If it's not enough, then that would be prorated between those that are eligible. If it's too much, then those that are eligible would get whatever it is that they are entitled to. And it's one of those things that is not exactly as predictable as what you might wish that it would be simply because of the unknowns that are involved in the out years. And certainly as you and I both understand, we really can't spend anything beyond the two years that are in the A bill. And other than that, I don't know how to answer your question any better.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. Well, I will just simply say my