

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

January 25, 2001 LB 313

going financially in all probability. And I say in all probability, because I believe if you have a base year of \$5 million, and extend that out for three years, base year simply means the first of the three years of payments, and you extend that out for three years, the amount of money that you will be spending will be as I described to you, and the only question is whether enough school districts will apply to make those figures correct. And I suggest to you that they will because, remember, and this is a critical fact, critical fact, the levy limit is dropping from \$1.10 to \$1.00, incredible increased pressure will be upon the rural districts, and you will see the advantage maximized, I think, to the extent that this bill allows it. So with the committee amendment that you've adopted, here in rough figures is what I think we'll be spending the next three, four, five, six years out. In the year 2001 and 2002, the amount of money we will be spending on this program will be roughly in the neighborhood of about \$7 million. In the following year, and the year after that, and for all future years until, basically, the program runs out, that total will bump up to roughly \$13.5 million. It will do that because with the committee amendment you have, first of all, doubled the cap. We had a cap that was around 6 point something million dollars or around \$7 million. You now, with the committee amendments, double that cap. So the payments that I think will be forthcoming from this bill will result in, in fact, bumping up against that cap every year after next year. And I am assuming that you keep in place at least the \$5 million a year base payment that is in the bill currently. So the question is whether you want to commit right now to those kinds of payments in the future, because if you are sure that you do, fine. But if you are not sure and you're worried about how our economy may be in a couple, three years, and how much there may be for A bills generally in a couple, three years, committing now to these kinds of payments in the future is a big, big commitment, an enormous commitment. I mean, remember, that for A bills this year, we are anticipating somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15 million available. If 13 million is going to be taken out for two years, you can kind of get an idea that we're talking about, especially in a year of a declining economy should it happen in the next few years, there being little or no money for new programs for mental health, for childcare, for the juvenile