

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

April 24, 2001 LB 541

drawdown on the Cash Reserve as it presently looks like. Is an awkward situation here with this last Friday's Forecast Board. We had to have a budget to the floor on that day. They met that afternoon. We had to react fairly quickly Friday afternoon. This was our best observation at this time. It's not impossible that revenues, tax revenues, because of late checks and so forth, that Cash Reserves could rise...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...somewhat by June 30. It's an unknown, but we feel that our numbers at this time are as accurate as we possibly can project looking at the future. It's always possible for things to get worse. It's always possible for things to get better. So the handout I had tells you kind of the history of what we've had the Cash Reserve at. I'll let you decide if you think that's adequate or not, but this, at this time, is the recommendations of our committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm going to go back quickly to the discussion on the attractive...Attracting Excellence to Teaching Loan Program, and just mention that Senator Chambers mentioned that this was, at least in terms of funding, it is in statute, but in terms of funding it would be a new program. It is something we have not done before. My concern with it, and I do have a concern with it which I should mention up-front, is that it is a sort of a bit and a piece of a much, what I think, broader issue which really needs to be addressed in a more comprehensive fashion. I also think that it should be mentioned that it is a new precedent in some sense. We have, to this point, at least in the case of our school system, pretty much concentrated tax dollars, tax funding, to public schools and public school teachers. This would make, some would call, a slight exception to that in that this would provide a loan forgiveness for a teacher who taught in a private or parochial schools, and this is a departure from what our policy is. So I think you need to be aware of that. I would also mention, maybe on a more significant note, that there are several federal programs that