

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

May 8, 2003

LB 156, 540

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Mossey, for a motion.

SENATOR MOSSEY: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 156 to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to advance. Any discussion? Seeing none, all in favor of advancement say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. We now move on to Select File, special order. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 540, discussed yesterday. Enrollment and Review amendments were considered and adopted at that time. The next amendment I have to the bill, Senator Bourne, AM1757. (Legislative Journal pages 1685-1687.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, to open on your amendment, AM1757, to LB 540. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This bill, hopefully, will go better than the last amendment to LB 540 last night. I've spoken with Senator Raikes on this and I discussed this a little bit with him on General File. And I just kind of want to go back and explain what LB 540 does as it relates to education funding. There's two components, as I see it, to LB 540. And one is that it raises the levy by four cents to help offset a General Fund cut. But then, one of the other factors in there, in Senator Raikes' proposal, is that he holds the growth to 0 percent, and he can correct me if I'm wrong. But as I understand it, growth now is about 3 percent annually, 2.5 to 3 percent, and I'll use the 3 percent number just for round numbers. And basically, it is kind of difficult to explain, but basically what this amendment does is it does not increase funding for education. It does not change the appropriation whatsoever. It simply allows us, or requires us to track what the spending would have been, or, excuse me, what the growth would have been. And by that I mean each year, as you know, TEEOSA increases, and Senator Raikes' formula says that growth is zero, but what it actually is, is it actually should be at 3 percent. And so again, as I said, it's kind of difficult to explain, but say, for sake of example, and I'm