

the committee to do it. But it does not take any monies away from the school districts, that has been agreed to. This is all prospective in nature. Now, the cap that is going to be put on that portion of the budget, which is about 60 percent of the budget, the cap will be put on based on the programs that the school districts are operating today.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Time. Go ahead and finish your...

SENATOR VICKERS: It will be put on today, but the cap will be the 90 percent figure that is to be reimbursed next year and then there will be no more than that 90 percent, or that amount in terms of whatever is paid next year, that will be the cap for future years, unless the...and it is tied to the amount of increase or decrease in state aid so it will go up and down with that. And, probably more importantly, any increases from then on will have to be justified before this Legislature's Appropriations Committee instead of being an automatic increase. That is the way the amendment is designed to work. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Very good. Thank you, Senator Vickers. Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Tom, I have one question, please.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, will you respond?

SENATOR VICKERS: Certainly.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Tom, does the amendments change the fiscal note any?

SENATOR VICKERS: Do the amendments change the fiscal note?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, the fiscal note that came out with the bill showed a savings of several hundred thousand dollars. I'm wondering if your amendments change the fiscal note any?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, the amendment would change the fiscal note considerably, Senator Haberman, I suspect. The bill, as drafted originally in the green copy, would have allowed this Legislature to reimburse the school districts next year at any percentage under 90. The committee amendment strikes all of that and caps it at the figure next year that will be the