

built a new building you have expenses associated with that. You have to hire staff, you have to buy books, you have to buy furniture, and for those specific expenses you can exceed the lid to do that, and we had other lid exemptions within the bill. When we went in front of the people regarding LB 1059, the opponents of 1059 took those exemptions and took us to task for them--it's a sieve, not a lid; it's not a real lid; spending can go up and they aggregated all of these and they came up with some ridiculous figure of 20 percent that they thought budget spending could go up, and on, and on, and on, and on. When this Governor came to dealing with another situation where there is likely to be more resources available to local governments, and in this case through base expansion as opposed to an increase in state aid, he said, I want to have a lid that doesn't have a lot of exemptions to it, and he originally came to the school community saying we're going to put a zero percent lid on you; you're going to live with zero percent. Representatives from the school community noted, understandably concerned about this zero percent lid, wandered over to the Governor's Office and said, gee whiz, Mr. Governor, we don't think we like a zero percent lid very well, or words to that effect. And the Governor said, in essence, or the Governor's representative said, well, what do you propose because we need a tighter lid than existed in LB 1059? Some ways it's real; some ways it's cosmetic because we got bashed pretty hard on the 1059 lid, which, by the way, I think was an inadequate budgetary limitation. So folks from the school community, and again admittedly not every school district in the state, not everybody was represented in that room, went into the Governor's Office and said, okay. The Governor's Office indicated we'd like to tighten up some of these exemptions; which ones can you live with tightening up? And the ones that are in the bill are the ones that they came up with. They said, the representatives of the school community said, we can live without this particular budgetary exemption, and so that was the way the bill was introduced and that's the way it came to...wasn't the way the bill was actually introduced because of some drafting problems, but that's the way things came to the committee hearing. Now, after that was done, the school community, representatives of the school community are coming back and saying, well, maybe we misspoke, we'd like to have this particular lid exemption back, and I'm troubled with that problem of coming in after negotiations were completed, saying, well, we need a little bit more back from that. I think if they were comfortable when the committee amendments were drafted to 1063 to accept this