

SB-261²

COSPONSORSHIP MEMO

September 11, 2001

TO: ALL LEGISLATORS
FROM: SENATOR JIM BAUMGART
RE: CO-SPONSORING LRB 3612/1 relating to increasing a school district's revenue limit for heating costs.

School districts are in dire need of increased budget flexibility. As energy costs continue to climb this flexibility has never been more apparent. School districts must be given the tools necessary to deal with increased heating bills without compromising funding for necessary school curriculum. Therefore, I am introducing legislation that will allow for the revenue cap to be exceeded by the increased cost of heating the school district's buildings. If you would like to cosponsor **LRB 3612/1** please contact my office through e-mail or call **6-2056** by **September 20, 2001**.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law generally limits the increase in the total amount of revenue per pupil that a school district may receive from general school aids and property taxes in a school year to the amount of revenue increase allowed per pupil in the previous school year increased by the percentage change in the consumer price index. Several exceptions are provided. For example, if a school district increases the services that it provides by adding responsibility for providing a service transferred to it from another governmental unit, its revenue limit is increased by the cost of that service.

This bill provides that a school district's revenue limits is increased by an amount equal to the increased cost of heating the school district's buildings in the current school year as compared to the previous school year.

For further information see the *state and local fiscal* estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

LEGISLATION REQUEST:

Date: 1/29/01

Requested By:

Legislation Idea:

Allow school districts to exceed the revenue cap by the amount that Natural gas bill increases. (Exceed only by the amount of the increase).

* Base the increase off previous years winter season (Oct. → April).

Drafter: Peter Grant 7-3362

Date Requested: 8/14/01