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**SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING**

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Withem, your light is on.

**SENATOR WITHEM:** Yes, I thank you for calling on me, Mr. Speaker. This always happens on a school bill. I mean, it's a real frustration and I should be laughing about it, I guess. We come forward with a simple little bill that does one or two simple little things and in doing those two or three simple little things, we say, you know, there may be some unfairness out there. We maybe should do something to improve the situation slightly. And that's what we have done, we have improved the situation slightly with dealing with this 5-year rolling average concept with those districts that have merged into existing school districts. We have done that. Then we have senators, well meaning senators like Senator Coordsen, who stood up a couple of minutes ago saying, oh, this is so confusing, we can't understand it, now he isn't even here to understand the explanation, saying, my gosh, we just can't do this anymore because this is just all so complicated. What made it complicated was dealing with the problem that exists. The intent of LB 182 is an incredibly simple intent. It is to move into the bill and surgically remove that language which Judge Hippe and Judge Camp have both found to be unconstitutional. That's all 182 does. It moves...reaches into the bill and pulls out some language that the judge has found to be unconstitutional and with an unconstitutional bill on the books we are threatening the education of kids next year. Simple, simple, simple. My amendment was a simple, simple amendment, simple amendment to assure that what we are going to do this year is going to apply to next school year. If we don't have the amendment that we just adopted, it may not apply to next school year. That is what we have done and in doing that last amendment, we have mitigated some of the problems that the Class I residents see that they might have in their school districts. That's a plus. That's a plus for Senator Lamb. That's a plus for Senator Coordsen. That's a plus for Senator Scofield and for Senator Johnson and for others who have Class I's in their district. But now I am being beaten up upon we have got this incredibly complex bill that nobody understands now. It's a simple bill and it needs to be passed. It removes unconstitutionally suspect language. It makes it applicable to this next school year and it deals with one of the unfairness's that may exist within the current statute in that it takes those