

March 20, 1992

LB 872, 958, 1057, 1272

CLERK: Madam President, if I may right before that, some items. Enrollment and Review reports LB 872 to Select File with E & R amendments. LB 958 Select File with E & Rs, and LB 1057 Select File, those signed by Senator Will and Enrollment and Review Chair. (See pages 1470-72 of the Legislative Journal.)

Madam President, LB 1272 was a bill introduced by Senators Ashford and Moore. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 22 of this year. At that time was referred to the Education Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Education Committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam President, LB 1272 is a bill that frankly the concept and the issue has been around for a number of years and as Chair of the Education Committee I can say the Education Committee in previous years did not look favorably upon this particular bill, but this year the introducer of it was an individual who was capable of making the arguments in a very persuasive fashion, was able to get to the real crux of the issue and was...made a very persuasive argument to the committee and the committee did then decide to advance the bill onto General File. There were some amendments. The amendments are largely technical in nature. The issue is whether the state ought to be paying local school districts tuition charges for foster care children placed within their school districts. The committee amended the bill and I'll paraphrase, well I might not even paraphrase, I just may read directly what your explanation of amendments in the book says. First of all the amendment makes it clear that state wards and wards of the court who are residing in group homes or institutions would continue to have their education costs fully reimbursed by the state. The intent I believe that Senator Ashford had, and he can clarify this in his discussion on the committee amendments, was that the portion of the bill would only apply to those placed in private homes, rationale being that they are very similar to any student that moves into the school district for purposes of receiving an education. Secondly, it adds that the payments for state wards will not be paid in advance. This continues the current practice of school districts billing the Department of Social Services at the end of the semester of a school year and, third, the language is added to include foster home used or maintained by the Department of Correctional Services as well as the other