

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: (Inaudible) ...second page of your handout dealing with the in lieu of tax formula and so forth. It was at 144...143 percent, and it's re...this is replacing 100 percent. Have they been paying, the state department been paying at 143 percent?

SENATOR WITHEM: Since...since the Supreme Court ruling, of two or three years ago, the department has been paying at 100 percent, as opposed to 143.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Seeing no other discussion, let's go to the committee...to the amendments to the committee amendments. (AM1292 appears on page 1457 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to clarify that as it was current. The first amendment is LB...is AM1292, it's in the Journal on page 1450...or referenced in 1457. I think it's printed separately along with this bill in the bill book. In essence, what this is, is taking the contents of LB 99, that was a bill that came before the Education Committee dealing with the Professional Practices Commission. Two or three years ago we had an issue involving the Professional Practices Commission, Senator Barrett's priority bill, changed the manner in which charges against professional teachers are investigated. Professional Practices Commission exists to...to investigate and, when needed, discipline teachers guilty of...suspected of and guilty of unprofessional practices. The most commonly referenced, I think, deals with sexual abuse, but there are a number of other sorts of things that the commission gets involved with. It used to be that the commission investigated all of these charges themselves, then prosecuted them, and there was a lot of work that needed to be done by the commission. A few years ago the bill Senator Barrett sponsored took the investigation responsibility away from the commission, put it into the Department of Education. We passed an A bill, increased the appropriation to the Department of Education and didn't do anything with the Professional Practices Commission. We have found that the work load of the Professional Practices Commission, that used to investigate and some...and...over 200