

March 22, 1982

LB 933

SENATOR CARSTEN: So in reality it was an indirect mandate then to the department, is that correct?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you very much. And, the amount is really not that significant.

SENATOR WARNER: \$2,160 was the cost last year.

SENATOR CARSTEN: That was last year's cost though.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, but in all events I would assume that it would be relatively, in that neighborhood.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Are we on. . .

SENATOR CLARK: On Senator Wiitala's amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't want to speak to that.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers, did you want to talk on the Wiitala amendment?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to support Senator Wiitala in his amendment. The section that Senator Wiitala is dealing with is one the Education Committee dealt with just a year ago and this body agreed and the philosophy at that time was that if it is a requirement of the state then the state should pick up the funds and not the local property taxpayer. I don't think that philosophy should be changed. I recognize the situation that Senator Warner and other members of the Appropriations Committee found themselves in in attempting to find all the sources of dollars that they possibly can, short of tax increases which some of us have been saying is probably inevitable for quite some time. But I am very concerned that we don't start down this path of causing the state tax rates to not be increased but instead cause property taxes to go up a bunch. Now we have got another bill going through this Legislature which is going to cause property taxes to go up a lot out in my area of the state and Senator Haberman's area of the state and other areas out in the rural area. But, I think that is almost a foregone conclusion that that is going to happen by the action of this body last week. But, to