

can get some listeners. If you would hold it down so we could hear, we would appreciate it. Senator Withem feels that his bill is important and we do want to hear about it. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. President. Given what happened when people listened to Senator McFarland, I would just as soon nobody would listen on this particular measure. Last year we passed LB 940 which was a bill dealing with school district reorganization. It was this body's attempt to deal with that issue in a much less controversial, confrontational fashion than we have in the past. It put a lot of things in place and a lot of things are going on. As with any piece of legislation that you pass when it actually gets out in existence, you run into some problems with the original wording of the bill. And that's happened with 940. I guess, frankly, I am surprised that there are only three changes that we have discovered that really need to be made. They are noncontroversial. There were no opponents and the only proponent was Larry Scherer who introduced the bill. The changes that it makes are three-fold. The first change involves the voting for county reorganization committees. The way this process takes place is all of the school board members in a county get together in a central location and they vote to elect members of their county reorganization committee. Each school board member in the county gets one vote. We didn't take into account, when we wrote the original bill, that there are some school districts in the state that have six-member boards and there are some that have nine-member boards. In some areas of the state, I think, Senator Dierks, it's probably up in your part of the state, we had some of those nine-member boards saying, hey, we've got a great deal here, we've got more votes than anybody else. All nine of their members showed up and they had an unfair advantage in the election of the county reorganization committees. In many ways, doing that flies in the face of the intent of this bill which was to get people working together as opposed to working in confrontation with one another. The first change then, what it does, it says if you've got a nine-member board, fine, but you only get six votes like all other K through 12 districts in the county. The second change it makes is a...one of those relatively comical sort of things that we said in the bill. We suggested advisory boards be created to work with Class I and Class II...Class II and Class III receiving districts. The wording of the bill says that they will be elected for three-year terms and they will be elected annually. Well, you can't elect somebody annually for a