

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. On your desk, for those of you who arrived early, is a little memorandum that was distributed to members of the city council. It has to do with LB 225 and whether that bill is, in fact, an education bill or a bill that is concerned with zoning or with city limits. This, LB 225, has gotten a little publicity, at least in the Lincoln papers, because it deals with the concept of choice in education. In some ways, it is kind of a mini-LB 183 that Senator Baack introduced. Senator Baack introduced a concept that parents should have the option to send their children to whatever public school district they want to. This bill is a smaller form of that because it pertains specifically to the City of Lincoln. The proposal in 225 is that any person who lives in the three-mile zoning boundary around the city limits of Lincoln should be able to opt into the Lincoln Public School systems if they transfer their property into the Lincoln School District for tax purposes. The bill is, in part, introduced by me because of the absurd situations we get into sometimes here in the City of Lincoln where you have a family that may live only two or three miles from a Lincoln Public School, they may just live just outside the city limits, but because of the way school districts boundaries go, they end up having to travel 10, 15, 20 miles to get their children to Malcolm or to Norris or to Waverly or some of the other surrounding school districts. When the bill came back from the bill drafters, the change that had been made was not in the education laws, but because it had to do with zoning, it was put in the zoning laws, although I think it is really an education issue. That is why I have asked that it be rereferenced to the Education Committee. I sent a memo around to you earlier, I trust that maybe you have read, explaining the situation and how it all came about. In the Education Committee, the Education Committee has already heard the choice in education bill that Senator Baack and Senator Bernard-Stevens introduced. The Education Committee has also heard a bill by Senator Warner that has to do with limiting the choice of persons whose property may be divided by a school district boundary because, at the present time, that family has a choice of sending their children to two different school districts if they have property located in both districts. Senator Warner's bill would say you take where the majority of the property is or where the residence is and that is the school