

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, Senator Warner on deck.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am rising not because I have grave concerns about a particular piece of legislation but because I think the appropriate place for this particular bill to be referred is to the Education Committee, so I am going to support Senator McFarland's motion; not because we need more bills in the Education Committee because we don't, not because I want to take bills away from Senator Hartnett's committee. Senator Hartnett's committee deals quite well with all legislation referred to it and I am sure it would deal fairly with this, and also I hope Senator McFarland hears this, not because I am promising any fairer treatment or more favorable treatment to his piece of legislation if it comes to the Education Committee. It will be considered on its merits like others are, but I think he raises the point, the appropriate point that the effects of passing or not passing this legislation are not going to affect cities, they aren't going to affect urban affairs types of jurisdictions. They are going to affect the education of young people, what schools do people go to. I think it is interesting they made some reference to the bill Senator Warner introduced that we heard the other day. After hearing that bill, I thought that is an urban affairs issue, it should not have come to our committee. We have already have heard the issue so it is probably a little too late to rerefer it. If we don't advance it, Jerry, maybe you'll want to consider having it rereferred after our hearing, and see if it is treated more fairly over there, but it was definitely a question of annexation policy and it was not a question of education, but it got referred to our committee somehow. Senator McFarland's bill, the effect of it will be that kids have a choice of going to one school district or to another, if it passes, the question of whether we ought to allow this type of cross-district transfer of students. It is an educational question. I think Senator Hartnett raised an interesting philosophical question and that is, should we be referring bills specifically along the lines of where they lie in the statutes or should we refer them as to what the intent of the legislation is, and I would argue the latter, that we ought to be referring bills to the committees that have the expertise and the experience in dealing with that type of legislation. Let me give you another example. It doesn't have anything to do with any bills that got introduced this year but has to do with