

the bill that I introduced which was assigned to Education Committee and which I had no objection to having it assigned to Education Committee as of the history of how that bill came about. And the history of that bill was significantly different in that I believe Senator Withem had the bill originally, which when property was subdivided in lots or in areas smaller than five acres, and through the process of subdivision, a lot was inadvertently placed in two different school districts, that then the owner of the property had the option of determining which of the two districts it would be in, and that was a sensible approach, and it was designed for a specific situation. As time went along, there was an effort on the part of the City Council of Lincoln, subsequently vetoed by the mayor, to annex a strip of land along a road artificially creating a split...described property as artificially creating a split lot, and when that was accompanied with the existing law, which I do support, that as Lincoln annexes property into the municipality that it then automatically becomes a portion of the Lincoln School District, which is in place so that there is not more than one school district within the city limits and that is good policy. But when these two things were split and the only reason that the city council took a strip was to avoid annexation of the residences because they could not serve them with water and sewer and the other amenities that annexation requires. The reason it went to the Education Committee because the original bill, in fact, was an education boundary, school district boundary bill. The second time it went in because the utilization of a bill that was considered and recommended by the Education Committee was used to do something beyond what was contemplated by the introducers or I suspect the committee and certainly by the Legislature when it was enacted. So it was proper to go back there. Senator McFarland's bill, while it deals with the same issue, the thrust of this is significantly different, and the thrust is as a matter of public policy that will not just affect Lincoln, does not just affect the 25th Legislative District, but it will affect every incorporated municipality in this state because we are now inserting that zoning and the zoning area of a municipality is not only land use but it extends beyond land use and it becomes the basis for establishing a school district boundary. And I would suggest that the purpose of land use, which is what zoning and zoning areas is involved with, is not compatible nor should it be mixed up with where a school district boundary might be, or where the option of someone wishes to have their school. They are very separate items.