

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Warner brought up a question with regards to pension funds and investments. No, the investments for pension funds are under different statutes. This bill does not relate to those at all. It is just simply in excess funds. That doesn't apply at all. Senator Landis has done very well in discussing the background on that. Rather than go into great detail, you have before you as passed out the background information on LB 221 and the sequence, historical sequence, of events, the changing of statutes along with time. Really simply what happened was when this was set up and the cities and some units of government were tied on to the educational, the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, in time the statute in which the Board of Educational Lands and Funds were changes and the statute which spoke originally to the cities being tied to that was a different statute. As a result, in time, they were simply just sort of left out there without any real solid statute answering just as to how they could invest. This bill will rectify that. It is to change an outdate statute, make it so that those cities and other subunits of government will know what they can legally invest in, and they will have it in the direction of the State Investment Officer. With that, I request that the bill be advanced to Select File.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. A question of Senator Weihing. Senator Weihing, I don't have that history in front of me, so perhaps, you know, that would answer my question, but for the record, we are saying that the cities and villages were taken out sometime back from the Educational Lands and Funds investment restrictions?

SENATOR WEIHING: They were not taken out, they were just left...nothing was ever said about them, and they went ahead and they were going on as though they were tied to the Board of Educational Lands, but in a recent ruling by, it is down here, the Attorney General Opinion said, well, since they weren't specifically stated again, they do not then have that authority of the State Investment Officer. That was...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, so in other words, Section 77 said that, hey, cities or municipalities, we are going to let you out from under that Educational Lands and Funds restriction, and so this