

additional sums of money to local school districts in order for them to prove that they are doing a quality job, or to let us identify the deficiencies where they need additional assistance. The bill does, I will point out again the specific language in page 5, Section 5, page 5, subparagraph (e), one of the things that the advisory committee is to be working on is a consolidation of education data to minimize the reporting burden on intermediate and local education agencies. For instance, it is not unusual for a specific piece of data to be reported on four or five different forms that come into the department at different times and then not have it to be available to a researcher who wishes to access that data, but...nor does it provide additional money to local school districts, they do an adequate job of asking for that on their own without putting it into this particular bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Withem, would you care to summarize.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I would be happy to. Just a couple of messages I am hearing with the questions, and they are good questions. They are questions that I have about the process. They are questions that others have about the process, but the questions I keep hearing are, does this cost too much money? And I guess in response, particularly to people like Senator Moore who each year brings us a bill on education accountability that is far more severe than this, these things don't happen without money. You have got to provide some funds in order to get this information. If you think you are going to create an education accountability system in our state that gets us all kinds of information about the quality of our schools and we are going to be able to do it on, you know, a shoestring, it is probably not going to happen. But any state that has quality data collection in education spends some money to do it. Am I totally comfortable with the fiscal note in here? No, I am not, and I would certainly be happy to work with other people to see if we can identify the places in here where we may be able to do the same job but not spend the same sum of money. Do I think the Department of Education can do this with its current personnel? I really don't. I may have thought that a year ago or two years ago, but, and, Scott, you have been on this committee, too. You have seen the multitudes of data that come out on that School Finance Review Committee, and the fact that there is still lots of questions that we would like to have answers to that we don't, and you have seen this guy who