

bottom, up, not from the top, down. What LB 366 does, it encourages this discussion through the organization of these forums that we've talked about. Secondly, it encourages all districts to go about the internal planning to improve the way in which they educate young people. It funds four model programs. We establish a committee and the Department of Education will establish the guidelines by which those program schools will make plans on the local level. They will submit those plans to this committee and the Department of Education. The Department of Education will reward the four best plans they see, the most creative plans and will fund those to a tune of \$50,000 per school. This is a total of \$250,000 appropriation on what is a major, major education reform piece of legislation. If you have any questions about the bill, I will attempt to answer them and I see I've talked long enough that I've encouraged some people to turn their lights on and when I first started to talk nobody did, but I think it's good that we do have somewhat of a dialogue on this bill because this bill could be a major piece of education reform in our state and it's not one that costs huge sums of General Fund dollars like most education reform measures that you see before you. With that, I will close. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try to respond to them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Beck, Moore and Hartnett.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it's been a long, long time since I was in a schoolroom either as a student or as a teacher, but I guess I would have to concur that there are some problems and certainly I would like to see some major changes made in the educational system. I'd like to see a different kind of work product that is developed based upon the experience of my own family, based upon the people whom I have been asked to hire and based upon some of the people who I think were going to have to be hired in the next five, ten, fifteen, twenty years. But I guess I would like to ask Senator Withem, why do we need this particular bill? Why is it not possible today for those institutions out there to be innovative enough to solve that problem themselves? I believe the solution was there 40 years ago. I hate to tell you of it and say look how good I turned out, but the point is that at some point in time we've gone backward and I think we ought to take a look at that. And so why do we need to have a model of five to determine what do we do to turn the thing around and are my grandchildren for