

report the bill as killed. My practice is to report bills as quickly before...after action is taken as I can. Otherwise, we could have handled this in the committee. I think it is a good change. I have, during my two and a half years Chairing the Education Committee, have developed an appreciation for the regional high school system that I may not have had in the past. It's kind of...kind of this whole reorganization fight we get into that if you're on one side of the issue, if you're on the proreorganization side of the issue, you're supposed to assume that anything that has anything to do with people on the other side has got to be bad. So we've kind of been taught that if you believe in reorganization that you ought to hate Class Is and Class VIs are just Class Is, got to hate them too. It's kind of the mood that we've had. I think, as a body, as a Legislature, we're moving away from that type of either/or sort of situation with our debate last year on 940, our debate this year on 259, discussions we have been having. We're trying to move through a system where we can accommodate differences in structure as long as we're all moving toward the same goals of educating kids efficiently as possible. The Class VI terminology has developed a bum rap over the years. The concept of calling them a regional high school makes sense for that reason. It also makes sense for the reason that when you read statutes you ought to be able to understand what it is you're reading. Well, if you read the term Class VI, that means nothing in and of itself out of the context of the statutes. If you read the term regional high school, that's what it is, it's a regional high school. And I think you may see in the next few years, as a result of some of the things we did last year on 940, some additional Class VIs formed that will be genuine regional schools in and of themselves. If you remember last year, we said that Class VIs can be formed when two or more existing Class II or III schools decide that they want to form a single high school to serve those districts but they want to maintain their elementary attendance center, that they can do that. They can form genuine regional high schools. So I think it's a good name change. It's a change that I'm sorry that we have to take on the floor that is the result of probably too quickly sending this bill onto the floor. I know at least one of the members who voted to kill the bill in committee has had a change of heart and will be talking to you here on the floor of the Legislature about it. I just think it's a good concept and we need to do it and I'm very supportive of Senator Moore's amendment.