

cover all phases. So this is why we had to have this long of an amendment. But, as you know, previously I've had a problem with this bill. It's a major change in policy, and I'd just like a little more time to look it over and to visit with more of my constituents on it and see...just see what they think about it. Minnesota did pass a bill something like this a couple of years ago. And I have visited with some school officials up there, also a Minnesota legislator, and they feel that they're having a few problems in the rural areas. I realize that part of the bill hasn't come into effect yet, but they feel it will. Iowa has proposed a bill this year. The House and Senate have passed it. The Governor has signed it, so they will be starting on theirs. But the question that I would like to ask this body is, what's the hurry on this? What's the hurry to make a major change in our school policy? I think this is going to affect a lot of students. We did get an amendment on that would have an interim study this summer and fall on it, and this committee would come back to the Legislature and give us their findings in it. But part of this bill starts next year, so this is why I'm proposing a one year delay in all the phases of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Baack, your light was on. Did you wish to speak about the Hefner amendment? All right, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. President and members. I rise in opposition to this amendment. I think that on General File we put in the slow, measured steps that we need to implement this bill over a long period of time, and I think that we will...the Education Committee is going to take this study very seriously. We're going to begin immediately after the Legislature goes out of session and we're going to work on this very diligently. I don't think we need another year in there. I think that, as Senator Hefner said, Iowa has passed theirs and the Governor has signed theirs and theirs will be going into effect even much sooner than ours is. There isn't nearly as slow-paced as ours is. And I don't think that we need to go any slower with this. I think it's something that by delaying it one year I don't think we're going to gain anything. I think that the Education Committee can do a very thorough study this year. If we come back with changes that need to be made next year, I give you my word that I'll be the first one up here making those changes. I have no problem with that. I've been trying to be accommodating on this bill all the way through. I've been working with all the people that have been involved and I've been trying to