

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Withem, on behalf of LB 486.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, the next three bills are all Education Committee bills. They are all bills that were referred to us by the Department of Education, and they're all relatively minor. They're all also needed to help the department do its job a little more efficiently. The first one deals with things like freeholding petitions and also with ESUs. The major change it makes in freeholding is it takes the State Department of Education totally out of the process. Currently freeholding petitions are appealed to them. If they take action on them, it doesn't really make a whole lot of difference anyway. It goes back to the local level for enactment so we're taking them out of it because it's really not...doesn't make any difference. The second portion of the bill, a couple of years ago we changed the educational service unit statutes to allow for a reorganization transfer of property, school districts leaving one ESU, going to another. One of the things that we have done is, we inadvertently didn't do at that time was we did not make it mandatory that before a school district goes to a new ESU that they need the permission of that new ESU. They have to accept them. This makes that change and also says that the state board can appoint a hearing officer to conduct a public hearing on proposed ESU boundary changes. That's what the bill does. I would urge its acceptance.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Withem, there are no lights on. Would you care to close? Senator Withem waives closing. We'll be voting on the advancement of LB 486. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote no. The Clerk will record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR LANDIS: The bill is advanced. We'll move on to LB 487 by the Education Committee. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 487 was introduced by the Education Committee. (Title read.) The bill was read for the first time on January 17. It was referred to the Education Committee. The Education Committee does report the bill to General File, Mr. President.