counsel for the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. Would you folks please stand. Thank you. We're glad to have you with us today. Senator Hefner, followed by Senators Nelson, Bernard-Stevens, Moore and Smith. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I think we're coming up with a more realistic figure and it sounds to me like I'll be able to support something like this. Senator Conway, I want to commend you on bringing this amendment to us. It gives the local school board a little more control than the original bill did and I like that. I also like the portion of the minimum salary. I think you've addressed that problem, may not be exactly correct, but I believe we're in the right direction. I go along with a philosophy that we need good teachers and we need to pay them a little more, and I think this is a step in the right direction. As I understand the bill, and Senator Conway, are you listening? Senator Conway, are you listening?

SENATOR CONWAY: (Response inaudible.)

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, as I understand the bill now, is there $20 million in the next fiscal year for this?

SENATOR CONWAY: Correct, the amendment was drafted in such a way that there was 20 this year and then 20 next year.

SENATOR HEFNER: Twenty next year, okay. How about the third year?

SENATOR CONWAY: The third year was not arranged, to my understanding, and that would be up to this Legislature. In essence, there is no money after two years unless this body decides to continue this program.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, say that this body doesn't come up with another 20 million the third year. Would the school teachers' salary have to be reduced by the local board or would they have to increase property taxes to come up with this figure?

SENATOR CONWAY: If they want to pay the teacher at the same level we were paying, they would. But the school board is going to negotiate their salary separately and then this is a bonus fund that adds to whatever they negotiate, so actually the school board wouldn't reduce their salary, they just wouldn't be