

may have, otherwise, I would urge your support of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. For purposes of discussion, Senator Warner, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this particular request was discussed a number of times, actually, during the processing of those recommendations to the body. And I would say probably...I think probably the amendment ought to be adopted. The...It was somewhat unclear, at least to myself I think at one point initially, of how much local requests there have been to the department for assistance, and I think it exceeded what I...at least what I had anticipated. It is, as was pointed out, one-time money to carry out the legislation that was enacted a couple of years ago, but because the amount of the request for assistance, that wasn't really clear to myself, at least, and I don't want to speak for anyone else, that it is probably appropriate that this addition be made in order that the funding for the provisions of the study can be carried out.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President, members, this is an issue that I think we were more or less familiar with in the committee, depending on how actively involved our areas might be in this process. I don't think there was any real objection to doing this in the committee, there was just a varying level of awareness of the need to do it. I know in my area there have been some schools that have indicated a need and a desire for this kind of assistance, and I suspect that will continue to grow. I did check with the Department of Education, apparently they are getting an increasing number of requests for exactly the kinds of assistance that this amendment contemplates. So I think this was a thing that the committee was kind of divided on, mostly on just...Obviously, if you're from an area that you don't have any schools that have to comply with 940, there aren't a...there isn't a lot of interest or awareness on this issue. So I think it's...this is just one of those things that I think the committee was more or less not as aware of, depending on where they were from. But I think it's perfectly appropriate that we go ahead and do this, think there will probably be continued demands for this kind of assistance.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal.