

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, again, Senator Beck, it would be extremely difficult without making the types of assumptions that I don't think we should be making, because we really don't know where these districts are going to affiliate. I suppose you could. We could do...we could take Brown County as an example, because Brown County is one that has a number of Class I's around the City of Ainsworth that has...they really don't have any place else to go. When they affiliate they will affiliate. And we could probably look and see what happened based on previous history. But to get a printout that Senator Hefner was asking for, that shows the fiscal impact of this on every school district in the state, is impossible. It would be like asking for a school district if we'd mandate that asbestos be taken care of, let's get a printout on how that will affect tax levies. Well, we don't know how it's going to affect individual districts. If you want to just see a microcosm, a case study on what would tend to happen in a given county, we could do that for you. But we cannot, it's impossible to do a printout and predict what the state will look like, because we don't know.

SENATOR BECK: I see, I see. I have just one other question then that came to my mind as we were talking about this. Maybe it's too early to ask it now, I don't know. But is it possible for the K-12 to reject the Class I's proposal anyway?

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, thank you. Another point that needs to be clarified, that's criticism coming in that Class III's will totally reject them and then could reject them and reject them again, the only thing they could do then was merge.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: That is not the intent of the bill. The bill...the intent of the bill is a Class I will have a absolute right for affiliation. They have to go through a process of approval and discussion with the Class II's and the III's. But when the whole thing shakes out, they will, in fact, have an absolute right for affiliation. They cannot be rejected into a merger situation. I suggested to some people to bring some language forward to further clarify that, if they want to, and I'd be happy to accept that kind of language. Thank you.

SENATOR BECK: Okay, thank you, Senator Withem. That's all the questions I have at the moment. Thank you.