

plans to provide school restructuring, to improve the way in which they educate their young people. It's a bill we debated last year quite extensively. There were never any dissenting votes in the Legislature as the bill made its way through the Legislature last year. Very quickly, what it does is it adopts restructuring improvement of education as a statewide goal. It creates a program to be administered by the Department of Education, creates a commission that does the actual overseeing of the school restructuring program, creates this commission. The members will be appointed by the Governor, I believe it is, yeah, by the Governor. They will set up rules and regulations. They will set up the program and then those school districts out there in our state that have a willingness to improve their programs and change the way they educate young people will be submitting plans and we will be funding at a \$40,000 level those school districts in the state that have exemplary programs. I would like to point out to you that even without the Legislature acting in this regard or without the Governor's signing this particular piece of legislation, there is an organization in the State of Nebraska, Nebraska Center For Excellence in Education, that consists of a number of school districts in the state. I know Doug Christensen out in North Platte, the Superintendent out there, is the current President. It includes the Columbus school districts, Fremont school districts, North Platte, Grand Island. Other school districts in our state that have an interest in restructuring are in the process of promoting a program they call A Decade of Change. These schools are voluntarily modeling programs, exchanging information on how better kids can be educated. I have this information here and I would have had it ready for duplication for everybody had I thought this bill was coming up as quickly as it did. If you have any questions about the bill, I would be happy to try to respond to them. I would just appreciate your support.

SENATOR HANNIBAL PRESIDING

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Withem. There are several lights on. Some may have been left on from the last discussion. I will go through them. Senator McFarland, your light is on, did you wish to discuss this bill? Don't see him. Senator Korshoj, on this bill. Senator Ashford, on this bill. Senator Hefner. Senator Schmit, on this bill. You are next in line to speak. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I have not had a