

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...very hazy from...

SENATOR WITHEM: No. No, well, the bill, Senator Pirsch, creates legislative findings, finds and declares. Section 2 of the bill talks about why we need to improve our education system. I think Senator...we maybe should take this part of the bill out and insert Senator Schmit's remarks because they're probably a little more easy to understand than maybe some bill drafting language.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: The point we are talking about with the global economic competition is a reality that we currently, as a nation, are suffering economically because nations like Japan, western Europe, soon to be eastern Europe...

SENATOR PIRSCH: I think we all understand that, but what I am saying is that why is that put into this bill if these are for programs that will look at mastery of learning and knowledge, active student involvement, team teacher involvement, development of higher order thinking, the active involvement of community parents and administrators, it seems to fuzzy up what supposedly the committee statement is aimed at. And, with that, I guess I will listen to debate with interest to see exactly what we are going to achieve with this bill except establishing another commission, another bureaucracy.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Coordsen, please, followed by Senators Peterson and Hartnett.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Would Senator Withem respond to a question, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Would you respond?

SENATOR WITHEM: Be happy to.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Not very complicated, Senator. On page 7, Section 5, speaks of a board of education waiving any rule or regulation. I guess I'm more curious than anything since we have a rather well defined system of putting in place rules and regulations, can we, in fact, simply authorize them to waive any of the rules?