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SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, I move that the E & R amendments to LB 960 be adopted.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Is there discussion? If not, shall the E & R amendments to the bill be adopted? All in favor say aye. Opposed no. The ayes have it. Motion carried. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend the bill. (See Withem amendment, AM2881, on page 1242 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, LB 960 is a bill we debated on General File a week or so ago. It deals with the concept of restructuring of education. I had the privilege of attending a conference back in Virginia over the weekend where I was able to meet with six legislators from around the country, seven school board members from around the country, and some of the brighter minds on this whole area of how we go about improving education to make it a better experience for children. It was a remarkable experience and I came back committed even more than I was before to the idea of improving schools and needing to improve schools not in the traditional way that we do, imposing state down mandates, throwing money at problems, but really looking at the way in which schools are organized, and how curriculum decisions are made, and how teachers interact with students, and how students actually learn, and making the schools better; committed, as I said, even stronger to the ideas behind 960. Also to be very honest with you, I am not as committed to the idea of the grant program that we have in 960 as I was before. Part of that is that I think the situation of improving schools is so massive a process that we probably won't do a lot of good by appropriating the grant money. Secondly, it is getting to be that time of the year when we, as legislators, are getting ready to cannibalize legislation and proposals that are out there on the floor. We have revenue projections that have come out since we last discussed this bill. We don't have the money that we thought at that time that we did have, so I am proposing with this