

amendment, as kind of a preemptive strike, I will admit, that probably would be coming either from Final Reading amendments or vetoes or something like that that this money wouldn't be here anyway, so I am proposing in this amendment that we do take the portion out of the bill that provided for the grants. I think that was about \$400,000 appropriation that we are suggesting...that I am suggesting be removed from this bill as somewhat of a preemptive strike. Also the other thing I am doing with the amendment, Senator Pirsch had pointed out to me in the dialogue we were having on the bill on General File that there is some nice language in the committee statement defining what restructuring is, that it is mastery of learning of knowledge and knowledge essentials. It involves active student involvement in the teaching and learning process. It involves teacher collaboration and planning curriculum schedules, and learning goals and objectives, and that it develops student higher-order learning skills. She pointed out to me that that was not in the bill anyplace and I think I agreed with her at that time it would be a good idea to include that language within the bill. So this bill, what it will do, if this amendment is adopted, we will strike out the grants that were mentioned in the bill, that portion of the bill that talks about the Legislature appropriating \$300,000 for purposes of grants will be gone. We will add a definition of restructuring including the things I just read off. We will then have a Legislature that is committed to the idea of restructuring schools. We will have the situation in place where schools are encouraged to restructure. We will have a commission that will be moving forward with this idea of restructuring. We will have the situation where State Board of Education may waive rules and regulations that get in the way of restructuring projects, but we won't have the money appropriated. With that, I will respond to any questions that anybody may have. If there are no questions, I would urge you to support the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Withem. Is there discussion? Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I just wanted to commend Senator Withem for putting in some specific language in this bill and giving some direction to it, and I do support the amendment, and I will be able to support LB 960.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.