

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would, Mr. President. I'll take this opportunity to not only speak on behalf of the Byars amendment, but begin an explanation of what I would like to do with the next amendment that comes up. Since the time we have discussed 1059 on General File, a number of points have been brought to our attention that need addressing, as there are with any major piece of legislation that comes through. This is one of those. And, as I understand the Byars amendment, it is to exempt from the lid any court ordered repayments of property tax refunds. I think that makes good, good sense. That, if the court comes in, as they may in some school districts, particularly down in Senator Byars district, and order the school district that they must pay back dollars, that should not have to come out of existing school programs. Teachers should not have to be rifled to pay this back, and technically the way the bill is being written that would happen. So I support Senator Byars amendment. And also, if you'd bear with me, Senator Byars, just a second here, let me explain the next amendment I have up is amendment 2821. I have passed out to you an explanation of amendment AM3066, which is on your desk, your desk now, carrying a number of clarification amendments. When that time comes up, I'm going to ask to substitute 3066 for my amendment, 2821, and we'll deal then with a lot of these technical sorts of cleanups at that time. And this is one of those that Senator Byars is bringing to us, and it's one which I support.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore, did you care to discuss the Byars amendment?

SENATOR MOORE: Only to say that I support the Byars amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, did you care to discuss the Byars amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Only briefly to say that I'm not going to vote for it, or any other amendment, but to use this opportunity to say, especially to Senator Scott Moore and some of the others, that when the Governor was out of town her back was turned, the Legislature advanced this bill. And I stood on the floor then and said, I can't wait for the Governor to get back with her whip and whip some of the people off this bill. I think the whipping has begun. I believe I'm going to have a day to gloat, and I don't think this bill is going to get 30 votes, and it shouldn't. Not just because the Governor will whip people off the bill, but because it is basically unfair and