

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam President, members of the body, AM1322 is a long complicated amendment. It was sent to your offices last Friday. It is, basically, LB 698, which was a bill that was referred to the Education Committee. A hearing was held. It is what I characterize as "the noncontroversial" portions of 698. This is the annual Department of Education clean-up bill cleaning up a number of their statutes. It also is making a number of administrative changes in LB 1059. I went through the list, there are right at 50 changes that are in this amendment. I went through trying to find the more significant ones to point out to you. Frankly, I couldn't find a lot of them. Perhaps, the repeal of the Math and Science Teacher Tuition Act is one, although there was no opposition to that in the hearing. There is a feeling that this has worked and we have adequate number of people now going into math and science as a matter of fact. Some of them that are now getting their teaching degrees in math and science, can't find jobs and can't have the forgiveness of this. It clarifies the Class I district membership that an ESU will follow the membership of the Class VI district of which it is a part. There was a problem with that, things like removal of inappropriate reference to finance division in the Department of Education which no longer exists. There is an imposition of a very slight penalty in state aid money for late reporting of data, but not a great deal. Class II districts may establish building funds up to 14 cents per hundred dollars for site acquisition, the same as III's, IV's, V and VI's. That's the flavor for the general types of changes that are in the housekeeping portion of the bill. The 1059 cleanups, again, this is the sort of thing that when the department began to make 1059 function, that they found that the statutes weren't 100 percent in sync and this gets hopefully 90 percent into sync and we'll probably still have problems making everything function administratively properly, but these are things like correction of an incorrect waiting factor for Class I districts, clarification of timing for certification and reporting of data, clarification that average daily membership and tuition resident student only includes students in grades K through 12. Johnson-O'Malley (phonetic) funds we had those as accountable receipts. These are funds that go to maybe three or four school districts in the state. Federal law does not allow us to make those accountable receipts. Clarifies that state pipeline reimbursements to districts to offset losses in court decision is counted as another actual receipt. Clarifies that only the nonlocal match share of special grant funds are exempt from the