

affiliate. Where the wording now says "shall", we're going to change that to "may". It involves some property in my school district that, or in my legislative district, where we have a school district that would like to affiliate with a district that hasn't received many of its students before largely because there haven't been many students in that particular part of the district. And in this particular case where the district would like to affiliate, actually is a higher cost, higher taxing authority than the one where the County Board Committee would have to send them if they went with the "shall" language. I'd like to answer any questions you might have on it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, I support Senator Dierks' amendment. His amendment deals with the section of the statute that mandates that the County Reorganization Committees disapprove a plan if the children had never attended that school before. This was put into the bill as discouragement from tax levy shopping. We didn't want a group of people just running around the county and picking the lowest tax district, affiliating their property with that district if students had never attended that district before. What Senator Dierks has brought to our attention is that there are some places where it is to the educational advantage of the young people maybe to affiliate with a district where students had never gone before. And in the case he is bringing up, it isn't a tax advantage to do that, it's a tax detriment, but they want to send their students to the school district where they think the education is better. This will still allow the County Reorganization Committee, as I understand it, Senator Dierks, if it's done purely for levy shopping purposes, they still will have the ability to disapprove that plan, but they also will have the ability to approve it if they feel it is in the best educational interest of the young people. And with that understanding I think Senator Dierks is bringing us a fine adjustment here to the process and would encourage you to support it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to the Dierks amendment? Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I'm sorry, Senator Dierks, if you could one more time just describe it for me please.