

don't think it was our intention to discourage any teacher, regardless of what level, from receiving their fair share of this kind of funds and money, but, unfortunately, the bill was passed in that particular way and we corrected it with LB 91. And this bill also provides funds to be treated as special grant funds. This provision keeps HELP funds as part of the state's 45 percent K through 12 education funding obligations and ensures that additional HELP funding is not subject to the 1059 lid. We do not, it was never intended for this to be part of the 1059 funding. And, lastly and importantly, it also repeals Section 79-3511 that causes the law to be terminated as of June 30th, this year, 1991. The purpose of the act is simple; promote excellence in education, give us the capacity to recruit new teachers and take care of and retain with this kind of an incentive the quality teachers we already have, who are doing a great job for all of us in Nebraska. Also provides some things that are important for us to know. All of us are concerned especially with the recent concerns about the misuse of public funds. This provides that any provider who misappropriates program funds shall have twice the amount misappropriated deducted from the provider's state aid in the subsequent years. Ladies and gentlemen, I know there are others who will address the issue. I think that is an adequate opening. I will pay close attention. I know there are some amendments addressing this legislation. I will try to answer any questions you might have at that time, and rather than tell you something you really are not interested in, or already know, wait for those questions and hopefully be able to answer them to your satisfaction. I hope you, after the debate, will consider this important piece of legislation, the obvious need for it, and at that time support it to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the bill is by Senator Withem. Senator, I have your AM0421 with a note that you would like to withdraw and substitute AM1439. (See page 1801 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WITHEM: That is correct.

SPEAKER BAACK: You may proceed.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, members