

body, let me explain what we're doing here as best as I can and then I'll give the remainder of the opening time to Senator Lamb to give you his explanation of what he sees what we're doing here. LB 719, first of all, is an important piece of legislation concerning two pieces of legislation that were passed last year. Last year we passed a bill providing for affiliation of school districts and for a new state aid formula. We passed those bills, those bills were designed to deal with a couple of major perennial problems in the area of education policy. They've been on the books now for approximately a year, little more than a year, and, as in all major legislation, there is a need to come back, take a look at them and make some adjustments. With the case of these two bills, we did so. The Education Committee advanced a bill, LB 719, became a Speaker's priority bill, was advanced from General File to Select File. When I drove down here this morning I came down here with full realization in my mind that 719 probably was not going to make it to the top of the agenda today and if it did, it would take an inordinately long time because there were 23 amendments filed to it. And I had kind of made up my mind, we're probably going to have to let the world live without 719 passing this year. Senator Lamb approached me this morning with the idea of taking his bill, LB 511, which was an individual senator's priority bill, positioned on Select File at a position where we'd get to it in a fairly orderly fashion it appeared, and suggested that we use it as the vehicle to address the problems in 719. After some discussion and the discussions back and forth, we finally decided to do that. We have an amendment drafted which you have the explanation of before you. It is basically 719 as it came from General File to Select File with some additional technical changes to it that clarified some of the amendments made on Select File, clarified some of the things that needed to be done to make the whole bill flow properly. It's important that this pass. We also, by the way, have in it a provision dealing with school districts far below 35 students. That is in there and the realization that we're probably going to deal with some provisions of an amendment that Senator Lynch had added to the bill on General File. With that, it's our desire to suspend the rules to deal with these important issues as expeditiously as possible. If you wish to give us that opportunity, you will be among the 30 people voting to suspend the rules. If you prefer not to follow this particular procedure, you will be among those who do not vote to suspend the rules, but at this point we are asking for a suspension of the rules vote. If there is anymore time left, which I suspect there is, I would give the remainder