

new set of amendments also is a rewrite of LB 245, so I would suggest at this point, that when this loud bell rings up here in a few moments, that we reject this set of committee amendments so we can get on to discuss Amendment 2363 which I've had an explanation of distributed to you and placed on your desk here. So at this point, unless there are questions or comments or other people wishing to debate the committee amendments, I would ask that you reject the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Nelson, do you wish to address the committee amendments?

SENATOR NELSON: No, the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem, we'll proceed with a vote on the committee amendments and, if you wan...want to encourage Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, just in closing. This is one of those rare instances in the Legislature when I'm speaking and not everybody is paying total attention to my words here, so...so let me repeat that the committee amendments, in my opinion, should probably be rejected.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 1 aye, 19 nays, Madam President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Committee amendment are not adopted.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator, would you like to offer your amendment now, Senator Withem?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would. The amendment is described on...on the desk here. The reason for this set of amendments...since the bill was introduced, other players have become involved in this whole area of assessment and accountability. The Department of Education, the Governor's Office and this entity known as the Mid-Continent Regional Education Laboratory, MCREL, which is one of the education labs that is established for multistate cooperation, that has been doing a fair amount of work in this...in this particular area.