

January 30, 1992 LB 245

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

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President. Senator Wickersham brought something to my attention here that caused him a minor concern, and that is that one interpretation of the language of this amendment, where it says, strike all...strike the original bill and all amendments thereto might strike his 150 or 131 page amendment. Now the Clerk, who will be reading this bill, may prefer that interpretation, but that is certainly not my intent to do that, to strike the Wickersham amendment. The amendment was filed, made reference to the original contents of the bill and is certainly not intended to strike the Wickersham amendment. And I would assume that as both of these amendments will flow through E & R at the same time, that the E & R folks will be able to make that distinction, that this amendment was meant to strike the original contents of 245 and the amendments that have been adopted on General File, did not make reference to the amendments...the amendment that we just adopted in Senator Wickersham's case.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, if I may, just a couple of questions of clarification. The bill deals with assessment methodology, assessment techniques, also there's language in there about curriculum standards. And then the date for the final phase is moved back to 1996, was it, as opposed to an earlier date that we had before. And my question is this, I...I...I feel strongly about curriculum standards, for example, and also for both the subjects that are of concern here. And I would hate to think that for the next four years on the Legislature...of the Legislature anybody who has any ideas, or who wants to seek improvement in those areas sooner is going to face the opposition of the educational interests with the argument that this committee is in place on those two huge subject matter areas, and the Legislature should do nothing for four years. Would we get ourselves into that kind of a situation?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, let me respond to that. First of all, the amendment under consideration at the moment actually amends the General File amendment to LB 245 that I had offered, and that date in the...that amendment was 1998, so this actually moves the process back. You raise an incredibly important issue