

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Robak, you're next. Senator Withem, you're next.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I was not going to address the advancement of the bill, would not have turned on my light had it not been for the discussion regarding the 1059 impacts that I believe Senator Hefner and Senator Haberman raised. And a comment a little bit about that issue. I think in...well, Senator Haberman, in his inimitable style, indicated that the 3-R Committee had this information, and none of us have it. Right on both counts. The assumption then is there's something devious going on there, and I think, you know, there are a number of members on the 3-R Committee. It was pointed out that only three members of the 3-R Committee ultimately voted for the 3-R plan. So those other members, obviously, didn't see anything very sinister in that information. I was sorting through my book here, trying to find the various printouts, the way they impact 1059. But the general impression, I think, most members of the 3-R Committee was that the 1059 impacts caused by net book value were there, but they were of minimal consequence. It did not, as the discussion went on it did not become a major part of the discussion. Does it have an impact? Well, certainly it does, certainly it does, it's supposed to. How was 1059 supposed to operate? LB 1059 has three...formula has three very elements...three factors to it. Number one, what are the needs of a school; number two, what are its resources to meet those needs, and then we at the state send out the difference. If you have more resources at the local level, you get less in aid. If you add valuation to your district, you get more...less aid. If you lose valuation, you get more aid. The point, I think, that I made in the 3-R process, that seemed to make some sense to people, was that 1059 is supposed to be responsive to valuation changes. And it has been. I would remind people that just a couple of years ago we approved the constitutional amendment to the Constitution to allow ag land valuation, ag property, real property to be treated lower. When those numbers find their way through the formula, which will probably be just about the same time that...no, no, everything will be two years in arrear, but about those time those numbers worked their way through the formula, there will be a lot of areas that have predominantly agriculture real property that are going to get more state aid. There are people that are going to be paying lower property taxes, but because the schools have less property tax money to