

has gone for the last couple of years, and let's not let these school districts dry on the vine. Ladies and gentlemen, there is no justification made in this proposal by Senator Lamb, he has not once said that this is a good proposal, that it needs to be done, and here is the reasons why. He said it is a good proposal, we need to send money basically back to his area, and he feels that we should do it now on April 2nd, approximately the fifty-third day of the session. We are talking here about at a minimum a seven to a seven and a half million dollar amendment, and as Senator Bernard-Stevens pointed out, it could be upwards of double that. When you look at the whole issue of the hold harmless, you are extending it from a three-year program, which was put in place when there was a major substantive change in how we funded education, one that I support, one that I think that was well-crafted and put together. Yet on the...with seven days left in the session, we are going to take one provision of that, the hold harmless provision as it relates to school districts, and say we are going to double that by 66 percent of the original proposal; 66 percent increase in terms of the amount of time they have to come into compliance. Three years supposedly was not enough, even though there is no information available to show why, other than Senator Lamb's encouragement that this is a good proposal. It is a huge amendment at the 11th hour on a bill that they had to suspend the germaneness rule, which I appreciate, had to do that in order to allow the amendment to be addressed here. It is an issue that really should not be in front of us, and we are not even addressing where the dollars go. We don't see where they flow from, or where they are going to over this additional two years that are put in place. But yet we go ahead and suspend a germaneness rule by a 39 membership vote to say, yeah, we should address this issue. There has, and this, by the way, amendment showed up in the book yesterday. The issue is one of how do you substantiate voting for this when you don't know what effect it is going to have on your district? How do you sit down without turning the numbers, and when you think back to when we did 1059, you couldn't get a breath out unless you could substantiate it by a school district sheet. You couldn't get an amendment done unless you showed the entire impact of those financial changes on everyone of the school districts in the state. But yet, here with Senator Lamb's amendment, we are going to increase by 66 percent the ability for school districts to sit back and not have to worry about taking care of their own finances. We are going to say we are going to hold you harmless. What we should say is we are going to take care of