

April 2, 1992

LB 719, 1125

that he would like to see an amendment adopted to LB 1125 which included the rapid growth provisions. The committee agreed with him at that time. They did include this provision as a portion of LB 1125. That is an Education Committee priority bill. It will, in a few days, go the way of all other committee priority bills and probably will not be considered. I was not a participant in the creation of the package that is put together here. I cannot give a rationale as to why Senator Lamb brought these three provisions forward as he did. All I can do is react as another member of the body to this provision as it is before us. Senator Hall has indicated there is no data. He is accurate, there is no data before us, save this little handout that I was able to glean today and it is on your desk. You get an indication of some school districts in the state that would benefit from this particular proposal. I would point out to you that this is 50 and 2 percent and the proposal before us is 25 and 1 percent. It would, in fact, shift more money to these school districts in the initial year in which it would be introduced and ergo those districts that do not appear on this list would not get as much money. We do not have the printout before us, as we did not in the previous amendment, that shows exactly how it may impact on other school districts in the state if we were to make this shift. Senator Hall indicated there had been no rationale put forward as to why this is a good proposal. I thought I did that earlier. I would repeat my arguments as to why this is good public policy. And you may choose and I will respect any member of the body who says, you know, good public policy be darned, I want to see the numbers, if you don't bring numbers forward, we're not going to support your proposal. I will respect that and I can understand that viewpoint. But the rationale is that school districts that are growing rapidly, and Lexington is a good example, probably an extreme example. Lexington, because of the IBP plant, has had tremendous growth in their enrollment. The 1059 formula funds based on student population two years in arrears and those school districts that have to hire staff, bring in portable classrooms, buy textbooks, all of the...provide transportation, all of those other expenses associated with very rapid student growth, have to make those expenses...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...and then they get reimbursed two years in arrears. All this does is give them money they would otherwise get when they need it and that is when the student growth comes