

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, I only rise to give a little bit of the legislative history of this proposal. For the last three or four years, because we've been making lots of changes in state aid to education and the affiliation bill, the choice bill, other aspects, the people over in the Department of Education who are charged with the responsibility of implementing these discover and continue to discover and probably will into the next year that a particular provision of the statutes here, on one hand, doesn't necessarily dovetail as well as it could or should with the preexisting statute or some other bill that we've passed somewhere along the line. Each year then, after the last two or three years, they brought in the bills that are highly technical in nature that really only deal with harmonizing provisions of dates by which terms need to be reported, definitions, matters such as that, that do make a significant difference to the people in the department that are carrying out the provisions of the statute and if they aren't clarified, may make real differences to people out in the field who are impacted by these but they are, you know, highly technical. They're difficult to understand and they really do not raise any levels of controversy. The department did have, in LB 1125 that was introduced, they did have a number of provisions that could have raised the ire of some members of the body or another member of the body dealing with things like the in-lieu-of-taxation as a result of the revenue from rental of school lands and other provisions along that line. They have, to the best of my ability to discern here, they have gone through and peeled out anything that could potentially serve as a controversy in anything that can wait until later years. We really have a bare-bones amendment here. I appreciate Senator Dierks offering this. It is really, LB 1125 was the bill number. It is an Education Committee priority bill and what Senator Dierks is offering you here is really the bare bones of what is needed to have the department carry out these statutes that we passed in the last several years. So I urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Any other discussion on the Dierks amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Dierks, do you wish to close? Waives closing. We will now vote on the Dierks amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the Dierks amendment. Have you all voted?