

want to make, and this is one that's been lost because 245 was an early, early bill, I think it might have been the first one on the agenda this year. It's been sitting on Final Reading for months, literally for months. It is...a lot of you have forgotten what went into it. One very important thing that happened in 245, that...that I think is pretty important to do, and I think Senator Wickersham thinks is critical to do, and that is it reenacts a statute we passed last year, LB 511 that we passed last year. That was a bill that made very many needed changes in our affiliation process. Most of you have, within your school...your legislative district, Class I school districts that are now going through this painful process of affiliating, deciding who they're going to pay their high school taxes to, who they're going to join in with.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: We made those changes last year in LB 511 to make that process workable. LB 511 was challenged in court. The Supreme Court did not make a rule...ruled that the provision that was challenged, the Beutler amendment was probably valid and appropriate. But it did raise some issues as to the methodology of passing 511 might have some questions. Senator Wickersham added the contents of 511 to this bill to reenact it. If it doesn't get reenacted, some of your school districts going through affiliation may have some problems, in Senator Wickersham's opinion. I'm sorry I took way too long. Senator Wickersham, if you want to make a comment on that last point I'd yield the previous few seconds I have left to you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Senator Withem. I will try to be brief. I think he has touched on the matter that was of a considerable concern to me and primary reason why the bill was 138 pages long. But the Zyburow v. Education case was decided late last year, the Supreme Court did spend some time, a couple of paragraphs, what I would characterize as chastising us for the process we used last year. LB 719 was a bill, you remember last year, that started out as the education bill. Then as we neared the end of the session we took the provisions out of 719 and amended them into 511. The Supreme Court suggested in what I can...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Senator Moore, your light is on.