

the full history of this is several years ago we passed a bill mandating that all Class I school districts had to either consolidate with neighboring districts, or they had to go through a process of affiliation. We passed that bill several years ago. And when we passed it we made some mistakes in the bill. Last year we introduced LB 719, which is a bill we just acted on the other day. Originally, 719 dealt with school affiliation, making necessary corrections in that bill. The last five days of the session, last year, because, I know this is very uncharacteristic of Senator Lamb, but he got nervous as to whether we would get to 719, so he offered the contents of 719 to LB 511. And I know it's uncharacteristic, it never happened again with Senator Lamb getting nervous and trying to leapfrog his priority bill onto another one, but that was the process we went through. And also on LB 511, that was passed last year, Senator Beutler offered an amendment dealing with a teacher dismissal. The school district that was trying to dismiss this teacher did not like what Senator Beutler put in the bill. They challenged the constitutionality of 511. Went to the Supreme Court. What the Supreme Court said, in laymen's terms, was the teacher that was wanting due process already had that on pre-existing law, he really didn't need 511, so they weren't going to run on 511. But if they were going to rule on 511, they might bring into question this whole thing of the...the...the flip-flopping of the bill and whether it had been before the Legislature the appropriate five days. And Senator Wickersham read that opinion, he has a lot of Class I school districts in his hand. He said, holy cow, or words to that effect that Senator Wickersham might use, this is...could cause problems if somebody wanted to challenge affiliation, could cause problems, so we probably ought to reenact the contents of 511. He offered those as an amendment to 245. And that's how 719 became 511, is now becoming 245. Perfectly clear, right? Okay. With that, that is...that is why we need to reenact this bill with the emergency clause.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Withem, I believe you probably had 44 or 45 votes before you explained the bill before Final Reading. (Laughter.) You got 30 now. Seems to me like you're trying for 25. I suggest we ought to vote and see what you got left. (Laughter.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Lamb.