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which is the old 1272 that Senator Ashford and myself introduced last year. I understand some people's concern is that we need to keep the pressure on, so to speak. And if we change the bill at this level of debate, we may not have adequate pressure to make sure things happen at the next level of debate, and that works two ways. But at this point in time, until I decide otherwise, I'm going to go forward in offering the amendment. And Senator Ashford, if you want to explain in greater detail what exactly the amendment does and how it works.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After I explain it, I'm going to have to decide what to do, I guess. The amendment, as drafted, is what is LB 1272 of last year, which was introduced by Senator Moore and myself. And what it does is, as was explained several times last session, is it separates out the children who are educated in group homes throughout the State of Nebraska, and continues to provide to those institutions, either the public schools, if the child is educated in the public school, or the group home itself, if the child is educated in the group home, it provides that those institutions, either the public school or the group home, would receive a payment from the state equal to the cost of educating that individual child. And it so happens, I think as Senator Withem suggested, that that amount is substantially greater as it comes out of the State of Nebraska is a payment greater than what the state aid would be, except that when you do the computation, and this is where it gets complicated, when you do the computation the state aid computation, often times the school district does not necessarily come out any better with this particular payment. But that's part of the confusion. What my amendment does, what Senator Moore's amendment does is go ahead and leave the status quo for the group home situation, whether it's a payment to the public school, or to the group home, and leaves that static for this year. It cuts the approximately, well for this year approximately \$800,000. It goes up to \$1.7 million next year. It cuts out that portion of the wards of the court funding that pays... is paid to school districts for educating foster care children, children who are placed in homes within the district, homes of parents who are paying property taxes to the school district. And many of you will recall that debate last year and the differences between the two. One of the main differences is that the wards of the court program was, as it was developed initially, was developed