

September 29, 1992 LB 3

cracks. My thinking was along the lines of what Senator Moore said, that at least the amendment that he proposed gave us a piece of the pie with a budget reduction, which is why we're all here. But I would echo the comments made in that I will support the advancement of LB 3 to Select File. But certainly I'm not in a position to support the passage of the bill as is drafted. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to be brief. I want to echo some of what Senator Moore said and Senator Will indicated. I'll support this advancement on the understanding that we will have amendments on Select File, specifically amendments that address problems that we have previously identified. I do think it's appropriate that we continue to fund the group homes in full. And the situations where we have children who are incarcerated and attending schools, the more complicated situation that Senator Withem attempted to address, I think the policy considerations are very complex and unclear at this point in time, in fact I'm not even sure that that's something we should attempt to address in the special session, but I'm willing to put that off to Select File.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I will join in moving this bill over to Select File. But just want to say for the record that I cannot support it in its present form on Select File because I have grave concerns about what's going to happen to the children that are impacted by this move. As others have said, conceptually it may be correct to place the responsibility with the public school systems. But concepts don't go very far for children when we're...when in reality they may not be appropriately served in those settings. I am also fearful that, if we do not be careful about this policy change and think it through very, very carefully, that we may, in six months to a year from now, be just increasing the number of children who are placed in out of state placements at extraordinarily expensive costs to the state. So I will join in moving this bill over to Select File and hope to participate in the discussions to make some refinements to it before we vote on it on Select File.