

September 30, 1992 LB 3

with a normal family. The foster parents reside in that district and they may or may not take a foster child. I understand that we have...when we had 900 plus foster families we were in a crisis situation. Now we are below 600. My point is this, we are not saving any money when we adopt this program, we are just abdicating our responsibility. We talk about it every day on this floor. The state says do this and do this and do this and the next thing we do, well, we haven't got the money so we shove it back on the other subdivision of government, which in this case happens to be the local school district and the property taxpayer. It costs the same amount of dollars, costs the same amount of dollars as near as I can tell. It does...

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...just takes the pressure off of the state, allows us to squander more money in some other nonsensical project because we force the school district then to pick up the slack. I, as Senator Withem has said, it's a maze, I understand, Senator Moore, you have a tremendous problem here but I want to make sure that everybody else understands we're not reducing the problem. We have not gotten rid of the problem. We have not lessened the cost of the education of the foster child. We have just shifted the cost from state sales tax and income tax to property tax, and I'm opposed to it. And I think we are lying to the people when we say we're going to save some money on this program because we're going to push it onto the school district. You know, we already do that time, after time, after time and then we all complain about the high cost of education.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise in support of the Moore and Ashford amendment to LB 3. I think that, as originally introduced, the ramifications of LB 3 certainly were widespread and probably more than could be absorbed at this point. I think the Ashford-Moore amendment actually returns us to a point that we've discussed in depth. We talked about it last legislative session. Senator Ashford has advocated the contents of the Ashford-Moore amendment for some time. I think that...and I think, frankly, that Senator