

would discuss taking that into consideration what then would be the appropriate time frame for school districts to go through whatever they need to in their communities to get the discussion going, then have the two years, then the three years and still have time to react to the bill.

SENATOR JONES: That's the reason I was talking against a sunset. Now maybe there is a spot for it, but I think that we've got to consider that when we talk about that. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Withem, your light is next.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, members of the body, I do support the bill as written. The thing that people need to realize is that LB 1059, as it is currently written, organizes school districts into various tiers. The rationale for that was when we drafted LB 1059 we did not want to make 1059 itself be a tool that would force school districts to reorganize or discriminate against school districts based upon their size. So we realized that certain sized school districts were more expensive to operate than were others. We ended up with a tier system. What we're finding is that, I'm going to make up some hypothetical numbers, I could get you the accurate ones if you're interested, but we do have some school districts are in a tier where they are compared to schools that are spending on the average of approximately say \$8,000 per student per high school and that's how all of their kids are counted in terms of their needs for state aid. When they reorganize and become a larger district then they get compared to another group of schools whose spending needs might be, again hypothetically \$6,000. So in that case for that school district to reorganize for each of those students they would lose \$2,000 in state aid because they would have \$2,000 fewer in needs. So what we're finding is what we originally tried to do, make a bill neutral on the issue of reorganization, we ended up with a bill that in fact, may in fact, inhibit some reorganization. That's what this bill does in its very simplest form. It removes that inhibition for at least three additional years more than we would have otherwise so that school districts will not lose money when they do in fact reorganize. People have talked about this as a carrot approach as opposed to a stick approach, as interested in fly swatters, flies, vinegar, sugar and hammers. I don't know quite how they tie in with carrots or not, but I'm thinking there must be an interesting grocery store to shop in some place in this