

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It became effective this year and they lost a little over \$297,000.

SENATOR HILLMAN: So my question, Senator Wickersham, is, could they participate in this program like the second or third year?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, I'm getting conflicting answers from legal counsel from both sides of the room. Perhaps we ought to answer that later, Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Thank you, Senator Wickersham, Senator Bohlke. Senator Lynch, your light is next.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and members, I just want to stand up and say something because we just ran our survey and for your information, to be completely frank, seven senators have spoken more than 50 percent of the time on the floor. I want to congratulate Senator Schrock and Senator Bohlke and a couple of you others, Senator Jones who stood up on this issue because I think it's important that some people out there, somebody out there knows there's more than just a few that seem to be on the floor the most. But, yeah, Wickersham does ask good questions though, I do want to mention it. It's because he's got good counsel I think actually. But seriously, I thought you ought to hear from a Draconian at least on this issue. I'm the guy that introduced the bill that said we should have one school district per county and I did it with a tongue in cheek because I knew in my own county where we had 14 school districts and four or five of the biggest in the state, it probably didn't go over very well but the same principle applies there as it applies all over the state. I don't want to close schools down at all. I keep remembering the Syracuse report that said we could save 150 million bucks if we did a better job managing, not the teachers, not the schools themselves as far removed as they can be from anyplace. but we could do a better job administering the programs and I think that's the reason all of this took place. I'm not sure if it's fruit or vegetables that we're talking about here. And all I want to say is that even in Omaha our taxes went up with 1059. We paid more. We share but we provide in taxes with everybody and that's the way it should be and I have no problem with that at all. And I have support, I support this if it will help. But just so we all understand that we're