

now is 6.5. Those were school districts who, when 1059 was passed, were in the category of schools with poor resources and high taxes and had been limited in their ability to create a good system. They were given a higher spending lid to allow them to bring the quality of their education up to the standard that we are trying to set in the issue of equity. The next lid then is another one percent that can be voted by...by the board using, again, a supermajority vote. We have a number of districts in the state that choose to use that additional one percent, so if I use the example of a school district who was at 6.5, they use their one percent supermajority, they're spending at 7.5 percent. Now the final, the final step in this is that if there is, in fact, a need or the board wants to spend more than whatever their allowable growth rate is plus one percent they can take that to a special election. They can ask then for a vote of the people to spend more than that final limit. The other issue I would bring up, just as we talk about the section about schools, is that schools, unlike counties and cities and other political subdivisions, have been given numerous exemptions from the lid. It seems apropos, I guess, that it's also the other bill that I...we talk about that I'm carrying and we've had great discussion on and that's special education, special education is outside the lid. Capital construction is outside the lid. Decisions that require salary increases made by the Court of Industrial Relations is outside the lid. Enrollment rapid growth allows for spending outside the lid. Judgments by courts or settlement in lieu of court actions are outside the lid for schools, so are ADA projects and emergency spending because of some disasters. So we already have allowed school districts many, many exemptions outside their spending lid than we do political subdivisions. Political subdivisions, if I...if I recall, have exemptions for ADA projects, asbestos abatement and then also some emergency spending required when there are, in fact, natural disasters. I'd like to address senators...Senator Withem's comment about none of this information in Section 79-3214...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...being included in the discussion and the drafting of LB 613. Senator Withem, in fact, I did not draft 613, however, in discussion about the committee amendments, we did look at CPR rates to move the lid down. When the lid originally went in place the cost of living was higher, at a higher rate with all other factors, inflation, than it is today.