

May 9, 1995

LB 613

think even responsible to do. I really think the Withem amendment, let me rephrase that, I think what the Revenue Committee and what Senator McKenzie is trying to do is laudable. I don't necessarily disagree with that. I think school districts probably can be tweaked a little bit and tightened on the lids, but I'd rather do it in a general overall discussion on school finance rather than just going across this way on across the board talking about all political subdivisions and just picking out on the school districts including them simply because they are a political subdivision. I think we need to look at the whole aspect of funding of education and then...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...based upon the figures and the data that the Department of Revenue gives us, set what we believe to be the proper lid and the proper growth rate based upon the changes that will be coming on the education funding. It makes sense to do it that way. It may be more difficult to do it that way, but it's the better way and a better policy which is one of the again, reasons why I would vote in favor of the Withem amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hartnett, followed by Senator Bohlke and Senator Withem.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President, members of the body, if I could ask Senator McKenzie some quest...if you could get this handout that you passed out, Senator McKenzie.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: On the second page, Senator McKenzie, you know as we debate this and bring this question, you notice that in the basic allowable growth rate, 6.5, 130 school districts were in that range, 78 took advantage by a super majority of the board to override that 78 did. What size districts were those? Do you know, in these different categories because you know a third of them were below the 4 growth rates, 4 percent, 263 and then there were, you know in the midst, and I guess my point for raising the question, you know, by making a tighter lid are we having a greater impact upon, you know, certain size districts within the state that felt they needed to go to the 6.5 and