

amendment, but I guess someone has to be the "Grinch" who stole Christmas. Yesterday the Revenue Committee met at great length over the amount of bills that are before us in addition to the various appropriations bills. It's readily apparent that at some point in time in the next several weeks that issues that are important to all of us or many of us at least in the case of individual issues are going to have to be substantially reduced or eliminated from the process. I think that if we're asking the local entities of government, and we are asking them to prioritize and reallocate resources and make a determination as to the importance of what we're doing it is no less important that we ask and place that same burden upon the various entities of state government that in this particular case the Department of Education, given the directions that are coming from the Legislature as to what the legislative priorities are, in developing statistics for decisions to be made yet in the future on education that that direction from the Legislature ought to cause within the Department of Education prioritization and reallocation of resources and so from that standpoint I am going to stand this morning probably more than one time and oppose all efforts to increase what is already a budget that may be more than what we ought to pass. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Crosby followed by Senators Beutler, Robinson, Bohlke and Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I understand the intent here, too, of what Senator Bernard-Stevens has brought to us. But I might point out that I think, too, that if and when they need to do this study and look at all the rules and regulations as things come along that the Department of Education has to look at I think probably they could do that in-house to start with and then figure out how they will do it later. And I'm not even going to mention the word consultant because Senator Chambers is here and Senator Lynch and Senator I. The word consultant does set some of us off. But the first thing, Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you just answer me a quick question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CROSBY: It would seem to me that they could start and then eventually come back to us if they came up short. Is that not a possibility?