

February 14, 1996 LB 1050

Wickersham's amendment, although I'd rather not do anything with this, this year, Senator Wickersham's amendment does less and will be less of an impact on districts. I've sat here and I don't want to make policy based on how it affects one particular school district, unless it's the one I spoke of earlier, which is the only one in the state probably in that situation. But I mean I don't want to do this based on how it's going to affect us. But I think it's only fair for people to know how it's going to affect them. They're going to be doing budgets in a few, short weeks or months here, and here we are making some rather significant proposals, and this one is very significant, and it might help or hurt the districts, in my 23rd district, I, frankly, don't know. But when it comes time for them to do their levies and set their budgets, and if it has a whale of an effect on them, I'm going to feel like I shirked my duties down here. And I would ask each of you, do you know how it's going to affect you? Do you know how it's going to affect your area? If you don't, I think you should not adopt the change, unless you know what it's going to do. At the very least I think this kind of proposal should have a phase-in or a later implementation date, or something that allows people time to see the train coming down the track, to give them time to prepare for that train at least. How does all this mesh with levy limits and...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...the other changes that we're thrusting upon the school districts, alternative education and other programs and things that...special ed and what have you? I don't know. And if I don't know, I'm not able to support it. So I will support the Wickersham amendment because I think it's less of a change, less of an impact, less shock effect. But I would encourage the body not to support the committee amendment in this section, unless you know how it's going to affect the taxpayers across the state, as well as the school children who feel the impact. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Robak. Senator Robak. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President and members. I rise in opposition to this amendment. It's certainly something that the Education Committee has discussed, we've discussed it since we