

school districts. That's the carrot we need to have a little bit more of a, an ability, the people who really want to reorganize at the local level, and that's what my bill LB 1337 did. I would withdraw that amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. The amendment is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, then we're back to...we're back to the section, to the...I have several lights. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Madam President. The issue I wanted to address deals with this as well, and that is when we come to issues dealing with consolidation of schools, working to have them as a more efficient way to operate, we usually have a pretty darn good idea what we're talking about when it comes to the inducements for these schools. And in my earlier comments in regard to the state Department of Education and the numbers, in a sense it wasn't meant as a criticism of the Department of Education. I mean it was more of a criticism of this body that we could be voting on a \$22 million change in funding and not have any idea how this would impact us. The Department of Education, as a component of state government, I think has an obligation to try to do as good a job as they can to provide this information to us. And if the information has just been requested and there is no way that they can get that information to us, that's, I guess that's the way it is. There's nothing we can do about it. As I said earlier, I heard these arguments before and we voted on bills without knowing what the impact would be. I think when it comes to 1059, that issue, some school districts had no idea what the impact would be until a few years down the road, or at least till after we adjourned from the session and then. I was hearing reports from my districts, well, you know, it reduced this amount or it increased it beyond what we thought we would get. They really didn't have any idea what the impact of 1059 would be. So when we get into the issue of changing the funding mechanism for our schools, maybe, maybe in some years we could go ahead and take that risk and say, well, you know, we can fiddle around with the numbers a little bit, maybe it'll hurt some districts, maybe it'll hurt other districts. But in a year in which property taxes is the issue, is the most important issue that our constituents are addressing to us, isn't it important that we know when we go back to our town hall meetings how much financially this is going to impact us? When I go back and I talk to constituents over this long weekend, this will be an