

February 21, 1996 LB 1205

more than a plan, it's a self-executing plan. The Board of Educational Lands and Funds is directed, as I understand the bill, to develop this plan, report it back to the Legislature, and then if the Legislature does nothing, the board is directed to begin this process of selling the lands. That troubles me somewhat. And I'm not really sure why. I think one of the things that troubles me the most is I'm not really sure of what our motive is as a Legislature in selling the lands. The lands were, were dedicated to the support of the common schools in this state as, as I remember the history of it, part of the whole statehood process. That there was a requirement as the, as the western part of our nation opened up, that as the area was settled and as it was homesteaded and as we developed this part of our country, that certain land would be set aside to provide for the education of the young people in our state. If the motive behind LB 1205 to sell the lands is to move from a land based portfolio to a portfolio with other assets that provide greater enhanced education opportunities for our young people in this state, then it's probably a good idea. But I'm not so sure that that's the case. If on the other hand a lot of the motivation of individuals outside the Legislature who brought forth this proposal to sell the lands was based on something other than that, it was based on an idea of getting this land that had been in the hands of the state for purposes of promoting education opportunities into the hands of private individuals for business advancement. And if that's the motivation behind the bill I'm a little troubled with it. So what I'm saying is to the Legislature is let's go at this a step at a time. This proposal that I am advancing would say, go forth Educational Lands and Funds Board and come forth with a, with a plan, bring that back to the Legislature, and if the Legislature then likes it, then we'll approve it with subsequent legislation. This is a process we've used with welfare reform. it's a process we're proposing to use with the DSS reorganization this year, and that is promote authorizing legislation, but before a final action is taken, bring it back to the Legislature. It would also make it clear to people that, that this is, you know, not the final thing I plan on doing on this bill. I'm having drafted an amendment, and we're having difficulties getting it drafted properly, that would, as opposed to what the current bill does, which would, you know, in essence dictate a sale of all of the lands, or 95 percent of the lands with maybe 5 percent of them held, but a justification as to why they have to hold those, I fear that might result in some sort

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