

March 20, 1996

LB 1050  
LR 160

of the reconsideration motion. Certainly, I think Senator Schimek and Senator Bernard-Stevens have explained what has happened. Certainly, as we talked to you earlier about the philosophy and that it was the same philosophy with transportation, that's true. We were able to recognize and solve school districts with those high transportation costs by still keeping in mind not rewarding any particular high spending. We thought we were doing the same thing with the 3 percent cap. There was some indication after we adopted it that we hadn't considered the base year and so we had two other ideas that appeared on your printout. When we got those and compared all three, I think we really highlighted, and it's very important for all of us, exactly the differences that Senator Schimek talked about from school districts who have a large number of special education students but who are impacted very differently according to which of those we would adopt. When we looked at that we thought clearly we need to postpone what...how we will solve this problem. I think what it did was to certainly demonstrate something that we were indicating before to you that there is a problem. We have a problem in the current formula that does not recognize the unique costs that some school districts have from high numbers of special education students and, in fact, that there are school districts who do not have very many special education students within the tier who are getting a benefit in their average cost. We have always said we recognized the problem. We thought, with the Schimek amendment, that we would be able to solve that. When we saw the printout and with the other two ideas that we asked to have the printout addressing that, we then recognized that there were so many different scenarios happening that it would be confusing to those of you here as we tried to understand it and so that it would be better to postpone it for a year and come back next year, and I have given the commitment to Senator Beutier and Senator Schimek that I'll certainly work with them to see that we address this. It was something that the LR 160 study group looked at all over the summer and recognized that it is a problem. And so I think that in many ways it's been a benefit to those looking at how to solve it. We have three scenarios out there and it shows how each school district is impacted according to those three scenarios. And so I think that it has gone a long ways in demonstrating how we may solve it or, maybe more importantly, how we will not solve it. So I really think that we've made some progress in understanding the problem, but I think that we all realize that we need to