

by the state to our respective school districts. Rather than impacting them in the '96-97 school year, it would wait until the '97-98 school year. This bill does have the emergency clause. I did leave the emergency clause in the bill when I drafted this amendment, because there are some parts of the bill that I think need to be implemented with the emergency clause. I don't know if the votes are here to pass the bill with the emergency clause, but I think they are with my amendment, and I think that's helpful as well. I want to finish something I started to say, and I think this is the reason that I feel rather strongly about this amendment. One of the criticisms that I heard in the way we provide state aid to schools or the changes we make, perhaps, in the way we tax property through our laws dealing with property tax assessments and that kind of thing, one of the criticisms I heard, when I came to the Legislature, while I was campaigning and since then, is that we change the rules a lot of times rather abruptly. We create a lot of pressure on our local people, the people that draft and formulate the budgets. Our school superintendents are starting, if they haven't already, they're working on their budgets for this coming school year. Property tax levies will be set a little later this year and implemented January 1 of '97. As we make changes that are fairly dramatic, I think we owe it to these people to do it deliberately, with caution, and to make the minimum number of mistakes that we have to come back and rectify. Now, with all due respect to the work and time that's gone into 1050, 1050 will have a rather dramatic effect on some school budgets right now, and as they begin to prepare them this summer they will be impacted. Consequently, property taxes will be impacted in those districts, and in some districts rather dramatically. As we talk about the way we finance our schools, it's important to me that we provide the necessary resources to provide a good education opportunity for all the children, whether they be special ed children, or whether they be regular ed kids, whether they be slow learners, or whether they be gifted, or whatever kind of children they happen to be, whether they be from disadvantaged homes, single parent homes, or the ideal mom and pop home, if those exist, that we provide them a good opportunity; that we provide the teachers with a stable environment so that they don't have to worry about whether they're going to be riffed, or whether they're going to be...have a decent salary increase to meet the cost of living. Those are important principles to me, that is stability...