

SPEAKER WITHEM: I believe we debated this about six hours the other day. The motion before the body at this time then is, shall LB 1114 be advanced to E & R Initial? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, Senator Warner, could I ask a couple of questions of you before this moves on? A number of folks, as you might imagine, associated with the Lincoln education system have been in touch with me by one means or another, and, of course, they are very worried this. As you know, the Lincoln levy is about 1.59, which is considerably higher than the statewide average levy of about 1.41, and as you are also aware, and I guess I am just reminding other members of the Legislature, obviously, you are aware, there are no provisions in the bill with respect to any sort of replacement revenue for the school districts. The people in the Lincoln school system, like people I am sure in many other school systems, think they have a real quality education system, and they are extremely worried about the potential destructive effects of this particular bill, long term, in the sense that the only mechanism here by which they can make up any revenues under the current...under the current bill is to have an election of the people that would allow them to exceed the levy cap for at least a period of five years. Otherwise, if we do nothing in this Legislature, the Lincoln school system will be seriously injured. That's a certainty, if we do nothing. What I wanted to ask you about is the five year limitation on the vote of the people. It occurs to me, and I don't have an amendment up here now, there aren't enough people here to deal with anything that's controversial on the bill, obviously, but it seems to me that the vote of the people that takes you out of the cap for a period of five years might be extended a little bit, since, after all, it is a local decision on the part of the people. That is, why can't the people vote for five years, or six years, or ten years, or fifteen years to exceed the limit, whatever the school district wants to put to them? So I just wanted to ask you quickly, with respect to the decision that five years will be the period for the exception from the cap, why was five years chosen? People are saying to me five years really doesn't allow you to do a lot of good planning. I mean what teacher is going to be willing to say, well, I can, you know, stick around for maybe four or five years, and then I am going to be rifted again, what sort of stability, for example, does that provide to a system? Is there