

Bernard-Stevens, you raised the issue of germaneness, can you share with me why you feel this might not be germane.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, Mr. Speaker, I have learned over the years, so this time I actually have an argument after someone prods me to challenge germaneness. Mr. Speaker, Senator Schrock's bill is a good bill. It deals with affiliated districts and it, basically, implies for in the future the patchwork quilt that we are beginning to have or that we have with land being affiliated to other districts, that we try to have continuous districts, and to that degree, that's what LB 604 pertains to. Senator Schimek's amendment deals with a policy on who should go to kindergarten. It's a discussion on, that would take place on whether or not districts should have the ability to decide on an age group or allowing certain cases other younger kids go to kindergarten. It simply is not germane to the affiliation concept in the bill that Senator Schrock has.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, would you care to make an argument as to why you feel the germaneness rule is not being violated in this case.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, this...this does open up the same areas of the statute. It is Chapter 79. I think that it does apply to local school districts. I think that a good argument is...could be made for germaneness and I am trying to make that good argument. I wouldn't have introduced this if I didn't think that there...if I thought there were germaneness...a real germaneness question, I wouldn't have introduced it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Schimek, our rules say germane amendments remain only to details of the specific subject of the bill. The specific subject of this bill is, in fact, contiguous property with school district affiliation. The amendment, as I understand it, deals with who can attend kindergarten. Must be in a natural, logical sequence to the subject matter of the original proposal. A nongermane amendment includes one that relates to a substantially different subject, and I think in the past, we've indicated that the constitutional standard of two subjects may be met if it is in the same section of statutes, but our rule call for a tighter standard than that. It would be my ruling that the amendment is not germane. Mr. Clerk, next item.