

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham, are you finished? Okay, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I must rise to oppose the amendment. I, initially I thought, well, you know this doesn't look, you know, too bad, too unreasonable, but then I began to think about a number of things, some of which Senator Wickersham has already indicated, the fact that you have counties' reorganization committees with the process in every, virtually, I believe in every county now. And the concept in this whole group of things has been primarily one of trying to provide incentives for...in a variety of different ways for people locally to look at more cost-effective ways of doing things, and rather than with a club, but with encouragement and with incentives of a variety of kind to try to accomplish that. But I, too, would be concerned about the burden that this might have on top of the other alternatives that are already available. Certainly, I agree that there is no question that all entities are going to need to be looking at ways to become more cost-efficient. In fact, that's the whole concept that we're going to engage citizens across the state in looking for ways to make government more cost-efficient from the state and local government combined. And, in addition, I would anticipate there could be other alternatives develop, which would encourage this kind of approach during the interim this year, as well as next year. So while I think that the concept Senator Beutler has suggested certainly is an important one, but I believe the methodology to accomplish it probably is still in effect in existing statutes, or through the interim work that's going to be going on, should these bills be enacted.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President and members, I, too, rise in opposition to the amendment, but from a perspective, I guess, a little bit of what Senator Warner was saying, but recognizing the concerns that Senator Beutler has. Let me state first that we do have LB 1050 that has our incentive package. We have said, last year when we removed the disincentives and then did not get the incentive part passed, that we believe that we should give schools an opportunity to react in that fashion. But I am going to be introducing an amendment that looks more at asking communities and schools and counties to look at how they will be interacting with one another with LB 1114 out there, and