

CLERK: Senator Warner would move to amend Senator Janssen's amendment. (Read FA612, found on page 1847 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Warner, on your amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this amendment is offered in part perhaps for discussion on this particular portion. What the amendment does, it strikes, if you have the amendment before you, it strikes the words beginning in line 2 "amounts levied to pay for sums agreed to be paid by a school district to a certificated employee in exchange for a voluntary termination of employment". And the concern rests with...certainly this concept is not a new concept that has been used, but it was always my impression that in that process usually they were replacing those people with lesser period of time, lower salary. It was always my impression it was done to reduce the cost of operations rather than an increased cost. Now there may be something that I'm not quite clear on. But in order to more clearly understand why that would cause an increase in the budget I'm offering an amendment just to strike that part of the exception for these voluntary terminations of employment. And again the basis for it, and Senator Janssen, I'll be glad to give you the balance of my opening to talk about it, but it seemed to me that these concepts was always in anticipation of reducing the costs of operation rather than an increase. And, with that, Senator Janssen, if you'd like to further talk about it, you may.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Warner. On the Warner amendment I still have some lights. Senator Landis, did you...no. Senator Wickersham, on this amendment?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. And I want to acknowledge that I worked with Senator Janssen in developing part of the language. I know that as he spoke in the introduction for this amendment that Senator Janssen made a reference to early retirement benefits. And, Senator, I'm not going to chastise you for making reference to retirement payments. What he's talking about really isn't retirement payments; they're in essence buying out contracts. And when I first saw Senator Janssen's amendment I thought that that was a good idea, that that was legitimately something that we should