

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this amendment is in the bill books, I believe, but this amendment deals with schools. LB 299 is the limitation bill over the next two years. Legislation, when it was advanced from the Revenue Committee, was on the expenditure side. Then, during discussion leading up to General File discussion, there was many who wanted to do the limitations on the revenue... on the, excuse me, it was on the expenditure side when it came out of Revenue Committee. There was several side who wanted to... thought that expenditure side, excuse me, revenue side was better. What this amendment does is returns schools so the limitation is on expenditures. It has the same growth and exceptions that was contained before, that is two and zero percent for the two years, but it could be three and one percent with a 75 vote. It allows for growth through average daily membership. It excepts out special ed, as was the case before. It allows out of the limitation capital improvements, as before. It retains the authority for the schools to use unused budget authority and it also has the exception for disaster. The reason for going back to expenditures as a limitation as it was when it came out of committee, in the case of schools, they had been operating under an expenditure limitation under LB 1059 for some time and when we begin to visit with school finance officers and they begin to look at the computations that would have to be made to convert their past history of the expenditure limitation over to a revenue and then realizing, with the amendment that was adopted that Senator Withem offered the other day, that would in two years return schools to an expenditure limitation, the same one as currently in 1059, it obviously made no sense from an administrative viewpoint to have a different method of limitations during these two-year period and so this will return schools to that expenditure limitation consistent with what they have. Has the same exceptions that it did before. The base on which growth is allowed is not going to be appreciably different with expenditures or revenue so there's not any impact from that, but I do believe it will avoid a lot of administrative cost for making those conversions and they'll be allowed to deal or to work with an approach that they're used to and have been working with in the past. And I would urge the body to adopt this amendment so schools can remain with the type of limitation that they've had in the past but still has same comparable limitations that other entities of government has.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Warner. Mr. Clerk,