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LB 149

send out notices, if they're going to have to fire teachers, by April 15. And it is...those aren't easy decisions to make. You can't...and you can't plan in the abstract for them. Not only are they difficult human decisions to make, none of us like to tell people that they have to be discharged, but they're also difficult choices to make in terms of the program for the school and the overall educational opportunities that are going to be offered and how that fits into a generalized budget. I think we owe it to the people who work very hard on those school district boards, and the administrators who assist them, to give them as much time and opportunity as we possibly can within our process to allow them to make decisions that are going to be impacted by what we decide. I think that's only fair to them. And, if we can...and February 1 allows the department to have its work done, allows us to obtain a number as early as possible in our legislative process, and gives as much notice as possible to the school boards and the school administrators about what the potential resources are going to be for their district for the next year. For those reasons, I would oppose Senator Brown's amendment and hope that you will also oppose it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Further discussion on the Brown amendment? Further discussion on the Brown amendment? Senator Brown, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I am very interested in the concept of some changes in the filing system as a way to possibly speed up the process, and if we could look at receiving the data before the end of November, then I might be a little bit more comfortable with February 1 as the date. But I would still say that there is one question that...that looms for me as very serious, and that is, why was the February 1 date not attainable this year, this year, when there would be all the reason in the world with 149 there to have it be attainable? But under the circumstances and because we're not going to take a vote on this bill today, I would pull my amendment and reserve the right to refile it when we take the bill up again, because I want to explore a little bit more some of the ideas for changing how early the AFRs may come in. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.