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SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Beutler, this has to do with the, I may have missed it, but the total number of school districts, 163 school systems. I was wonder...I would like to have you expound a little bit on what...why that number. If you gave it, I missed it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And then what you are...what you envision as being a school system? I have my definition and I wonder if it's the same.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, there are about 278, 280 school systems, and by school systems, I mean the Class II through VI's, not the Class I's because the Class...I mean the Class I's are a part of a system. So I'm just talking about the high school districts, those that have high schools, essentially, but, of course, the Class I's are affiliated with those that do have high schools. From that 278, if you subtract out the sparse and very sparse, you get down to about 204 standard grouping school districts, and at that point, I made a judgment based on the number of students in a large number of schools. I looked at 100 and less students, for example, as one standard. And it seemed to me that you could look at 20 percent of the school districts which would reduce you to 163, you could look at 20 percent of those school districts and, in my best judgment, they would all show benefits from a change to a different economy of scale.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And that's, essentially, how I got there.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I was wondering, I have another question and then I'll make some comments about it, should there be...you anticipate an A bill on this for the cost of this study?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I think there would be, honestly, some kind of A bill, yes.