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considering. So thank you very much.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Thank you, Senator Pederson. We are now open for discussion on the Pederson amendment to the committee amendments to LB 1399. Senator Kristensen, on the amendment.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, Senator Don Pederson's amendment gives me the opportunity to state obviously a position I have and a bill I put in, in this area, which the committee I think felt might be a little premature, that's the making teachers state employees. There was a considerable discussion today about greater involvement of the state in this process. I've chosen not to put that on. I will not run that as an amendment to this bill, however, I do think that at some point in time, obviously, this state is going to be faced with a very difficult decision that your desire for property tax relief will collide with your desire for local control and it's going to meet right with teacher salaries. Maybe that day is not here yet, but that day will come. And it will be a barometer of how serious people are about true property tax relief and how serious they are about wanting to maintain local control of their teachers. Senator Pederson's amendment gives me the opportunity to say that issue is still out there. It's alive and it is well. It still needs to be done, and perhaps when this study is completed, I think its mission is well defined at this point. There's the opportunity for us to extend the life of this, if we want to do additional things, and that would probably be the opportunity I would take to examine that in the future. But there is a number of aging buildings out there across the state. We, by putting levy limits, have extended that problem. Even though they can vote to override for some of those construction projects, there is a considerable amount of pressure that has been here over the last 30 years of property tax not to adequately build new buildings to meet the needs, particularly when there are shifts in students, and growth in areas and, quite frankly, there's an exodus in other areas. So the examination of facilities is important. Whether that's something that's capable to be done or not, I guess that's what this discussion and this amendment will decide. But I did want to raise the issue of state takeover of the teachers, that it is something that will have to be considered in the future. And at this point in time I plan