

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 1401

in a sort of peripheral kind of way, as I was looking at the provisions of LB 1401, because I wanted to see what was going on. And then I was asking about this program, and I asked for this chart and I got this chart. Now, the one...you can look...you can appreciate the fact that it's very hard for the Department of Education to know whether this broad definition is being used by the various school districts broadly, or in a uniform way, or some of them aren't using it enough, maybe. But here's the example that caught my attention and is the whole reason that I wanted to bring it to your attention that it pointed to a possible problem. Look on the last page, if you would, the very last page, and you'll see about in the middle of that last page Winnebago. Can you all find that? And, if you read across, you'll see that in the first two years of the program Winnebago didn't claim any students as being deficient in the English language. And then you see last year they claimed 416 students being deficient in the English language. And, if you look across at their enrollment, they claimed 416 out of 418 students. Well, I haven't had the time to get into a lot of details on this, but to me that defies common sense. And so I think there's something very wrong here. If you look through some of the other programs, there are increases and there are decreases that seem to make no sense whatsoever. So, I intend to explore this further, and I hope you take an interest in it because, between this category and some of the other categories, maybe, instead of worrying directly about the allocation of money, we ought to take a year and look at auditing and uniformity of criteria and whether the system is being administered in a uniform and fair kind of way. Because, at least with regard to this factor, I think this chart indicates that something is not...something is not quite right; something is a lot not right. So, having said that and having admitted to you that I really don't feel comfortable having enough information to push forward with this amendment or a similar amendment today, I want to leave the mike open for a while. I think Senator Bohlke will have some additional information on this, and perhaps some additional suggestions for the future, and beyond that others may have input related to this, especially in light of some developments that were identified in the paper this morning. So, having said that, I'm going to quit for the moment and not take up any more of your time, and ask you to reflect upon this a little and the whole