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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I understand it, in...there's one consol...how many consolidations have taken place in your district in the last couple years, either merger or unification?

SENATOR SCHROCK: The unification took place a couple months ago in this five-school system which includes Sandy Creek, Superior, Nelson, Lawrence, and Guide Rock. And this goes back a ways, but about six years ago, Southern Valley (phonetic) merged. They didn't unify. And we passed a bill at that time, LB 840, and I prioritized it, which gave them this type of incentive money. There was no unification at that time. So two pretty major school consolidations or/and unifications in my legislative district, probably, in about seven years.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. One was a merger...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, a permanent...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...traditional consolidation, and the other was a unification.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So the only unification that's taken place in your district...will that unification result in a sparse or very sparse district after the...after it's settled and in place?

SENATOR SCHROCK: That will result in a sparse district. That wasn't...and those schools weren't sparse before this time. I would also say that the Campbell school district did close during this time also. So there's another K-12 district that...it merged in with Silver Lake.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Senator Schrock, would you...if, as a balancing...let's call it a balancing mechanism in this bill...would you have any objection to the proposition that was proposed earlier, that the Department of Education take a look at and come up with a detailed plan using a configuration that best maximizes educational benefits to students,...