

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 11, 2000 LB 26

Bromm. I just want to remind you that this...the number of this bill is 26. That means it was introduced last year. It didn't come out of a committee until the early part of this year, so it's been around a long time. We've already addressed the issue twice on the floor. I'd just like to respectfully suggest that if it didn't include something somebody felt important, especially important enough for them to support the bill, we probably should have discussed and attempted to add that language on General and on Select File. I want to also make sure that we do not, we absolutely do not leave any kind of impression that because some kids might come to school and not...and haven't had the chance to have a good breakfast that means that they're neglected, or their folks don't care, or their mother who might be a single mom doesn't care. Obviously, they do. On those rare exceptions where they don't then it's even more important for the school system to have something available to them for breakfast when they get there in the morning. I don't think this is a budget breaker and I'm not quite sure how we can write into language where a nickel should go. I think we all know the cost of food and we also appreciate the support of the federal government in helping to provide these meals in school. However, I would hate to see us come this far and not be successful now. This is very important. Teachers support it, parents, I think, really appreciate it, and the kids especially need it. So, simply put, if I thought I could bring it back and fix it with language that would cover your concerns, I would. And as far as this being something that's going to grow into a monster financially and seriously affect our state budget, I wouldn't support it either at this point in time, but it won't, it won't. And it applies to kids all across the state. This is not a Republican or Democrat or rural or urban issue at all, it's a kids issue. And we all know, last but not least, I say we all know that the most important meal you're going to get is first thing in the morning to get the old motor started. And kids have motors that are revving as soon as they get up and they need to fill up before they get to school, and, if they haven't had a chance at home, they got to be able to do it when they get to school. I hope you'll support...I hope you'll support this bill on Final Reading and not support returning it to Select File for an amendment that would, in fact, kill the bill, because it would strike the enacting clause. Do not support the return to Select