

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

March 9, 2004

LB 868, 934

would point out that there is a common theme here. Both deal with mandatory attendance. We're dealing with both ends of the range, the range...the age range for K-12, the kindergarten end on one bill and one side of the bullet sheet, and the upper end on the other side of the sheet, and what was originally introduced in LB 868. The final point is that beyond the committee amendment, both of these issues are further addressed in the amendment to the committee amendment, which is on the machine, which is AM2960. So what I'm going to do here is to move it along a little bit further by talking to you quickly about the committee amendment to the high school part of mandatory attendance, the original LB 868. And then I will turn it over to Senator Stuhr, who can talk about the committee amendment on the LB 934 portion. If you refer to the bullet sheet, on the side that has high school bolded in the title, and look under "committee amendment," I'll go through that with you and tell you a little bit about what the committee amendment did with LB 868. If you go back to the green copy of that bill, it required a statement by the school listing specific information to be presented to a student about income lost and some other items due to dropping out of high school. The committee amendment eliminated that portion of the bill. What is left is that the mandatory age from...for enrollment moves from 16 to 18. And there are several exceptions. One exception is for students who reach the age of 16 prior to July 15, 2004. And that's simply so they don't get trapped in a, I'm already out of school, now all of a sudden I'm truant. So that takes care of that. Have obtained a high school diploma, which is not a change. That's currently an exception for mandatory attendance. Have completed the program instruction...of instruction offered by an exempt home school. So students who are home schooled are exempted from this mandatory attendance requirement. And then finally, have reached 16, and whose parent or guardian has signed a notarized waiver on a form provided by the school. So that's the real addition. Well, I shouldn't say "the real addition." That's one of the main ones. Again, if you have a student who has reached the age of 16, they are expected to be in school until they're age 18, unless the parent or guardian has signed a notarized waiver on a form provided by the school. So there is a requirement by the school to meet with, interact, and get that notarized waiver. So that, again, takes care of