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LB 868, 934

the committee amendment. I'm going to defer a moment at least on talking about the rest of the bullet sheet, which deals with the changes offered in AM2960. But for the moment then, Senator Stuhr, if you would like the rest of my time to talk about the committee amendment to the kindergarten portion of the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Stuhr, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Senator Raikes. The committee amendment that we dealt with had to do with LB 934 and talking about the kindergarten age. And the bill was introduced that we needed...that students would need to be five on or before August 1. And there was also provision then that school boards--and this would be local control--could admit children who will be five between August 2 to November 15. And that would be if the child is moving to another jurisdiction, or...moving to or moving from, and that the child demonstrates capability through a recognized assessment procedure. So that was mainly what that bill had to deal with. As we were speaking in the committee, we were also concerned, because the bill was introduced because of the large gap that we have in students in the kindergarten ages, ranging from age four through seven. And this bill was brought to me by the Council of School Principals, School Administrators, which are made up of school principals also. And they felt very strongly that we needed to look at that beginning age when students begin kindergarten. So this is what was introduced. And then I will have an amendment following that will deal with a compromise as far as looking at the beginning date of when students will begin, and then also looking at narrowing that gap. So that concludes my remarks, as far as the committee amendment. And I turn the rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Raikes, did you wish to have any of the 2.5 minutes left on the committee amendment?

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President. Only to urge the adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.