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FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2004

LB 868

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. We...now we will open for discussion on the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk. There are...there is an amendment to the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, Senator Stuhr, I had AM2950, with a note you wish to withdraw that amendment?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, I do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senators Stuhr, Redfield, and Raikes would offer AM2960. (Legislative Journal pages 964-966.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, to open on your amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. As I mentioned earlier, through our discussions, this amendment brings forth a compromise at looking and trying to narrow the gap of when students will begin kindergarten. And it retains everything in regards to Senator Redfield's bill, in regards to the graduation age. So let me just briefly run over some of those points. We, as I said, struck a compromise of setting the September 1 date, that a child will need to be five before September 1. And I might just bring you up to speed that actually that date is October 15 right now. So we will be setting that, if this bill goes forward, to September 1. Then, again, school boards have the opportunity, there's local control, to admit children who will be five between September 1 and December 31. And again, that depends if the child is moving to or moving from another jurisdiction and/or the child demonstrates capability through an assessment procedure. Again, that is left up to local control. But in the committee we also had the discussion of trying to narrow that gap, as I spoke before, of having four-year-olds and seven-year-olds within the same kindergarten class. And so we...after much discussion and compromise, again, we are proposing that if a child will reach the age of six prior to January 1 of the current year, then