

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

March 10, 2004      LB 868

Mr. Clerk, first bill.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, first bill is LB 868, offered by Senator Redfield and others. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 7 of this year, referred to the Education Committee. That committee reported the bill to General File with committee amendments. The bill was considered on General File yesterday and, at that time, there was an amendment to the committee amendment that was offered by Senator Stuhr. (AM2960, Legislative Journal page 964.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Redfield, would you take a minute or so and brief us on the bill itself?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate that opportunity. The bill that stands before you, LB 868, actually deals with the compulsory attendance age for high school students. It deals with those between the ages of 16 and 18, and would require parents to sign a waiver in order for a child to drop out of school. That is the entire impact of LB 868. There is a committee amendment before you that talks about the compulsory attendance age.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield, for the brief summary. Senator Raikes, as Chairman of the committee, would you like to brief us on the committee amendments to LB 868?

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The committee amendment, or maybe I'll talk instead about the proposal that's before the body now, AM2960, that would, in terms of the kindergarten age, that would move the date at which a child is eligible for kindergarten back from...yes, you have to be five, instead of on October 15, you'd need to be five on September 1. That's on the younger end of the range. On the older end of the range, if a child were six by January 1, then they would need to...if the parents and/or the child chose to attend kindergarten, they would need to enter kindergarten that fall, that August or September. The provision on truancy I think is much like it is in the committee amendment. There is a requirement that if a person...or the truant age is moved from 16 to 18, but there is an exception for home school students, an