

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

February 15, 2005 LB 126

school. Some are paying more. Those are the ones we need to look at. We need to address overspending. Now, is it because of a special education issue? We need to address that. If that's the problem, we understand that. But if that's not the problem, we can certainly not continue to overspend for some of those small schools. And we should look at that. That's very important. But why would we close all of them for a few? That's what this LB 126 would do. It just takes them all off. You know, we're going to close them all, the good ones and the bad ones. And that's not what we should do. So I commend you, Senator Foley, for your testimony. And I hope others listened to that also. A concern of mine is, why does LB 126 eliminate the public hearing process on reorganization plans at the state level? It eliminates the public process. We in the state of Nebraska enjoy the public process, because the people are our other form of government here. We have public process. We have committee hearings. People come in and testify. We have people come from clear across the state into the Rotunda to talk to us about issues that they're concerned with. The public process. The people are being eliminated from the choice of having their school. Why does LB 126 take away school districts' decision to appeal the decision of the state committee? They don't even have the right to appeal the decision. It's a slam-dunk. It's all over. If these consolidations are effective on June 6, 2006, when will the voters from the former Class I district be eligible to vote or run for the school board in their new school district? The next election cycle? Because it's every two years, it could be up to four years before we would have someone from the Class I board be able to serve on the K-12 board--up to four years. Are they going to have any say--so what's going to happen if they don't even have the process to be on the school board? When does reorganization process have to be completed, according to LB 126? Process has to be completed in nine months, nine months, by December 1, 2005. Is that enough time to accomplish everything required in LB 126? This doesn't need to be done now. We certainly...last year, we had this bill on the floor, and we did nothing, and the only thing changed from last year to this year is, we subtracted one year. So it could have gone in effect last year. And so to speak, it actually did go into effect last year, because we removed one year. We're back to where we were last year. We just subtracted a year from