

SENATOR CROSBY: Nothing on the bill? Senator Maurstad. Mr. Wehrbein, I am sorry.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I wanted to explain, Madam Speaker, members, I wanted to explain a little bit about what 860A, the reason I introduced 860A. It has to do with all public school districts shall have a direct connection to a statewide public computer network by June of 2000, and I know it was the intent of not to have to support any money, but I felt it was my obligation, as the Appropriations Chairman, to recognize that there is a cost to this. It is about \$13,000, and the reason for it, the State Board of Education and department is being asked to adopt rules and regulations to distribute grant funds based on priorities identified in the bill, to designate buildings in each school district suitable for connection to the computer network, to develop a plan with each ESU to connect the telecomputing of schools with ESU unit, and to evaluate proposals for grant funds. And I just felt it was responsible to introduce the bill to have the amount of \$13,000 in order that they might carry this out. It is possible that they could do this and not have to need extra money, but it is also a significant amount of work and so I introduced the bill to recognize the cost. In addition to do that is the responsibility that you do recognize costs and have a bill so introduced. So that's the reason for 860A.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Any discussion on 860A? Seeing none, Senator Wehrbein. He waives closing. The question is, shall LB 860A advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 860A.

SENATOR CROSBY: LB 860A advances. LB 552, number 7 on the agenda.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 552 was on Final Reading. There was a motion that prevailed to return the bill for specific amendment. That amendment is pending. It is offered by Senator Beutler. The members will find it in your bill book, AM2321; in your bill book, AM2321.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler, on your amendment.