

March 7, 1980

LB 844

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members, the amendment... I move we accept the committee amendment and it is a very short amendment. If you have the bill handy, the first section would read, "as used in this act unless the context otherwise requires reorganized school districts shall mean any expanded or altered school district", and the language is the same from thereon. So I took out a few words. The purpose of this bill and Senator Haberman may want to expand on it, was to set up a plan or a program whereby two districts merged, or more, that the teachers be given equal chance for employment in the new district and would have the same rights and privileges that they had before. As most of you know a year or two ago we had a lot of fuss over the reduction in force program for teachers and I think the idea of this bill is to make it possible for those teachers in the school that may possibly be closed or moved to another location or whatever might happen, would have an equal chance. We think right now there isn't much of this going on but maybe for economic reasons or other reasons in the future there may be some consolidation and we thought that this would certainly be advantageous under those conditions, so I move the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to 844. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman, the committee amendments are adopted.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow colleagues, the Legislature passed a law a few years ago called a reduction in force and they follow these rules and regulations whenever they have to reduce the number of teachers in their school. If you drop a class or if you drop a subject there has to be some sort of organized method and criteria to let teachers go. That was adopted and has been working. This bill basically does the same thing if and when two districts reorganize into one and/or one district is closed. All of the teachers in one of those districts cannot be discharged. They are represented by the collective bargaining unit. If each have a collective bargaining unit by the one that has the largest collective bargaining unit, the combined school boards set up a criteria as to what teachers are kept and what teachers are discharged and it just brings organization to confusion and I would ask that your support for this bill and as you know it does contain the emergency clause.

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