

General File, that would allow a high school student who came out of a former Class I district to choose which high school he or she wished to go to, and that the school district would then have to pay that tuition. The school district in which she resided would then have to pay for the cost of that high school student going to another high school elsewhere in the area. Now Senator Smith's language allows that option to remain available indefinitely. What this particular amendment does is it amends Section 79-498, an existing provision of law where when mergers take place a high school student is given an option as to which high school he or she would like to stay in to complete her high school education or his high school education, just for the duration of time that they are students of high school age, at the time the merger takes place. So basically what this amendment does is it clarifies Senator Smith's amendment by making it a one-time choice. Any student who is currently of high school age when a Class I merges into an adjoining Class II or Class III can choose the high school he or she wants to go to, but that does not extend beyond the time that that particular generation of students leaves high school. We make that change again by amending Section 79-498 which is in current law and which does allow those choices to be made. There are four other technical changes that this amendment makes. I'm sorry, there are three other technical changes. It removes a reference to free-holding which is repealed on the effective date, and that is Section 15 of this proposal. It allows mergers to more than one school district by going all the way through the bill and where it says there may be a merger into a district, it indicates there may be a merger into more than one district, so that if you have a Class I that wishes to fragment and do that the bill technically will allow that. The final thing it does is it clarifies, in Section 12, how the county superintendent would dissolve Class II districts which fall under 25 in high school. Currently the bill requires dissolution where a high school population falls below 25, but does not provide a procedure to accomplish that dissolution. So basically this amendment then has those technical changes, plus it repeals Senator Johnson's language that we adopted two weeks ago concerning which Senator Lamb has obtained a constitutional opinion indicating that it is unconstitutional and for which there has been no defense coming from the opponents of the bill. It whittles down Senator Smith's amendment to make it a one-time choice so that school districts won't be out there