

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, then Senator Lamb.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would just like to address briefly the delay of the effective date. I think it is very important, particularly in view of the ongoing study that we provide for in the bill, that the effective date of LB 662 be pushed back so that we can amend it without the emergency clause next session. And that is what the provision in the bill described in paragraph 5 of the handout would do, and specifically you can find that language on the last page, on line 1 of page 5 of the amendment that has been handed out, by striking May 1st and inserting July 31st, we are delaying the effective date for more than 90 days after we expect to adjourn next session. So we will have ample opportunity next session to make any amendments in LB 662 that the study or other considerations may show are indicated and are needed. I think it clearly makes sense to delay the effective date to give us more flexibility next session and I would urge that you adopt this amendment which does contain that provision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb, then Senator Remmers.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, of course, I rise to oppose the Vard Johnson amendment. Now some of the sections in this summary I don't have an objection to but let me talk about some of those that I do. Severability, remember the argument the first days we debated this that this LB 662 was not to close schools because the local people could vote, the local people could vote as to whether or not their school was to be closed. That was the big argument. Now the severability clause is trying to be attached to the bill. So what the proponents are saying in effect is, yes, we recognize that there are constitutional problems or may be constitutional problems with this voting procedure so we are really not going to let those people vote after all, because if the court says that this voting procedure is unconstitutional, just that part will be stricken from the bill. The rest of the bill will go into effect and you will have merger. You won't have voting. See, they are going back on the promise. The promise was that no schools will be closed because you will have the local people in that original Class I or part of thereof would have the opportunity to decide whether or not that school would be closed. Now with the severability clause,