

need for this amendment at all until such time as the voters in an area voted to shut down the school that is in that area, because, remember, in LB 662 as written, there is a protection right now. Since the bill is not a bill to close any school around the state, there is a protection that says that no specific school can be closed until the voters of that old Class I district agree that it should be closed. So Senator Scofield's amendment would not even take into effect...would not even kick into effect until it was decided that that school would close. Now I think I am right about this, Senator Scofield, and correct me if I am wrong. I would recommend that we not, that we not vote for this amendment until these additional sentences are added to complete it to make sense out of it because it is a fragment of a process right now and that can be presented to us and we can vote on it on a future date. I would also remind the body that we have postponed the effective date of this bill until after the next legislative session. This is the kind of thing we can quite easily take up next year after the study, after Senator Scofield has dragged herself around the sandhills and people have traveled elsewhere in the state, and if there is a legitimate need to set up something like a hardship status, then we can properly draft it and we will have more than enough time to consider it next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, as I indicated earlier, I thought that was the reason for the study committee to be established was to look at the mechanisms, the difficulties with the implementation of LB 662. I guess I resent just a little bit the somewhat veiled accusation that perhaps this study would not be conducted with an open mind or in an open fashion. I don't think that is the way that we historically have conducted studies that I have been a part of and I would certainly not intend to conduct this study any different than we have done in the past and, Senator Scofield, I don't mind bouncing around over a few sandhill trails or a few other hill trails for that matter either. I do it every weekend. But I would point out that it is so important to the opponents of this bill to talk about, and Senator Scofield has done it a number of times, talk about the fact that the proponents have not been willing to compromise. We have, I think, accepted every reasonable compromise. I don't know as we have picked up