

SENATOR LUNDY: Thank you, Mr. President, I would...I support the Senator's amendments. I support Senator Lardis in his statement that he made relative to the principal purpose for this bill in the beginning was for the counties and as far as I am concerned we should leave it for the counties. The cities certainly don't need this legislation. We have good purchasing practices in cities of the first class today and I see no reason to change it at this stage. It is working well and has worked well for years and I support the Withem amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I, too, also rise to support the Withem amendment. The study that was put together was put together by the county officials. It was never intended to be complicated by including any other subdivisions like schools or cities. If it were, they should have at the same time studied those purchasing problems. They took a number of requirements that now exist in the law and they simply harmonized those without really changing much, but simply harmonizing those rules and regulations. I think it would complicate and duplicate and overlap and supersede and generally I think ruin the good work of the county officials who have a serious concern of how they spend these public dollars and I would hope that you would support the Withem amendment and take out the schools and take out the cities.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, would you like to close on your amendment? Oh, Senator Scofield, excuse me, I didn't see your light.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise in support of Senator Withem's amendment. I have a letter here from a city manager in my district who points out that they have stringent enough requirements, in fact, stricter than what this bill proposes, and I see over here there is also a letter from the City of Norfolk that says the same thing. So I assume that there is no need to include the cities in this and I would urge you to support Senator Withem's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Withem, would you close, please.