

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, we don't say consecutive days necessarily here, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, what about...I know that you probably don't have this problem where you come from, but what if we dismiss at one-thirty because of a blizzard that is coming up, which we do quite often? How are we going to count that?

SENATOR WITHEM: I think under the current rules and regulations, as I remember them, that any day in which you go to school till one-thirty counts as a full day. Anything less than that is considered half a day, and, yes, we do have those problems right now.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I appreciate that, but your amendment is 175 days and you define 20 days as a school month, period. And you define a school week as 5 days, period. And I am kind of leery of your amendment because you are tying things down. I had a call from a school this morning or right before lunch. They are going over 1,080 hours now, as what Senator Vickers alluded to. Does this seem to be a problem in just a particular part of the state or is this a statewide problem, as you said?

SENATOR WITHEM: Is that a question?

SENATOR HABERMAN: The question is, are you addressing your amendment because there is a problem throughout the state or is this just a problem in certain areas of the state?

SENATOR WITHEM: It is my understanding the problem is statewide. The mandate for the 1,080 hours was a statewide mandate.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, I want to assure you that it is not a statewide problem because the people in my area are not objecting to the bill the way it is now. Thank you, Senator Withem.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President and members of the body, I would also like to stand up and oppose Senator Withem's amendment. I think last year in this state and across the