

(Vickers amendment is found on pages 1425-29 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, this is an amendment that you should have a copy of on your desk, AM2520, and it is identical to the committee amendments that are on LB 636, a carry over bill from last year and let me explain to you why I'm attempting to put this as an amendment on 997. LB 636 was a bill introduced by the Education Committee to raise the issue of how should the Educational Service Unit employees, how should they become tenured. The fact of the matter is, under the current mechanism the Educational Service Units employees, who in many cases are teachers in the classrooms right next to public school employee teachers or maybe even within the same classrooms, the ESUs don't have a probationary period which means that their employees have instant tenure. Now, for those of you who have some concern and think that tenure is not stringent enough, then you'd ought to vote for this amendment, it seems to me. Now, when the bill came to the Education Committee, if you'd care to look at your bill book, you'll notice that there was a disagreement between the teachers, public school teachers, and this particular bill. There was a series of meetings, a series of conferences to try to work out the differences and as a result of those meetings the differences were worked out. And I'll be very honest about it, I hate to see all that effort, and those of you who have been involved with those kinds of negotiations certainly know what I am talking about, I hate to see that effort go to waste. We finally got them to negotiate and to agree on what wound up being the committee amendments. Basically, the Educational Service Unit employees will achieve tenure exactly the same as public school employees receive tenure with one little change and that change is, on your amendment, is on lines 15-19 on the first page, and that is due to the differences in the way that the ESUs are funded and the differences in the fact that their services may or may not be all the same, always the same, as it is in the public schools. But it has been agreed to by both parties. Now we have, if we'll adopt this amendment, you'll have a mechanism whereby the Educational Service Unit employees will have a probationary period instead of having instant tenure and I think that's important. So I would ask for the adoption of this amendment.