

Education Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, LB 5 is, so there is no mistake, is a bill that will not affect the expenditures in this fiscal year. There will not be a savings in this fiscal year with the enactment of LB 5, just so that there is no misunderstanding. But what there will be is a removal of a section of the statutes that would indicate that we will fund and appropriate some funds, some monies to the public school districts of this state for the driver education programs in future years. LB 722 of this last session had intent language in it that indicated that we were not going to do that. So the bill as introduced simply reflects the intent language by removing that portion, that language from the statutes. Now there are those people who would say that the driver education is important and that we had ought to continue to fund that, but in the time of economic distress as we are in right now with the fact being that we do have to set priorities as to the way we expend our funds, it was the feeling of the majority of the committee members that we probably should pass LB 5 so that there is not that mistaken impression to the school districts of this state that we will, in fact, appropriate funds to reimburse them for that program. And I think the key point here being that we really didn't want another homestead exemption program whereby some folks would be misled into thinking there might be some monies there when, in fact, there probably wouldn't be. I should also point out to you in case you have happened to read the bill and there is some new language in the bill that talks about Motorcycle Safety Fund, that that is not new language to the statutes. That is language that is lifted right out of a section of the statutes that LB 5 repeals, so we are not touching or not changing in any fashion the motorcycle safety program, Motorcycle Safety Fund, in case that you have read that and had some concern. With that explanation, unless there are any questions, I would move for the advancement of LB 5, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Do we have an amendment, Mr. Clerk?