

and it is not the intent to affect the ability of a school district to offer drivers education on their own if they choose to do so. I'll repeat one more time, we'll still require a certified teacher, certified instructor because of other sections of the statutes. The second section, Section 3, that I am asking you to repeal only refers back to Section 2 so that private schools would be excluded from that provision in Section 2. That is the rationale for repealing both of these sections. I'd be happy to answer any questions that any of you might have. There will be no change, I repeat one more time, in the ability of public schools to offer the program if they choose to and there would be no change in the requirement that their instructors be certified if they make that choice. I would urge the adoption of this amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to direct a question to Senator Vickers. I think he addressed it, but I'd just like to bring it out to clarify it. By repealing this section of the statutes, Senator Vickers, what we are doing is saying that taking reference to drivers ed. out of the state statutes, but in no way are we prohibiting a local school district, if their locally elected representatives choose to spend their money in a particular fashion, they still would have that authority to do so. Is that correct?

SENATOR VICKERS: That is exactly correct, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, fine. I think that is the key point. I would rise to support this amendment and also to urge you to support LB 5. What we are involved in here in this Special Session is the very painful process of establishing our priorities and determining what it is we are going to be spending our taxpayer's money on. It is very easy for us, as we know, to come down here and add new programs. A few years ago, in LB 994, we added a number of new responsibilities on our educational system. When we tend to do that, though, we don't ask the educators to take a look at their priorities and determine are there some things that are being done that maybe really should not be the responsibility of the taxpayer, the responsibility of the local school districts. I think in this bill we are