

already got established, but instead we send them out to the higher quality standard. If you adopt this amendment and then adopt the amendment to LB 2 that I'll be offering later, you will start that process, you will then have monies left over perhaps to do some of the things that other members of this Legislature would like to do. That is the amendment that I offer to you. I hope that there is some good discussion of it and that you would vote for it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Vickers. Senator Withem, please, on the Vickers amendment.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I have a question or two for Senator Vickers if he would respond.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, will you respond to a question or two, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Tom, as I understand what conceptually you would like to do would be to change the standards on who receives state aid to education payments so that a school district would have to be an accredited school district as opposed to just an approved. That is number one conceptually what you would like to do. Number two, you would like to then--that would free up roughly \$4.2 million with the 1.9 that is already in the bill plus the 2.3 that you are adding now, there would be roughly \$4.2 million. Rather than redistributing that \$4.2 million among the accredited schools, you'd like to see that then cut out of the state aid budget to be used for other commendable state government programs. Is that correct?

SENATOR VICKERS: Or to simply lower the budget if that is the will of this body.

SENATOR WITHEM: Or to simply lower the budget, okay.

SENATOR VICKERS: I don't think anybody ought to gain out of this thing. No, I'm not shifting it to other schools, no.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, but let me ask further, the specific proposal we are going to be asked to vote upon, I assume just in a minute or two if my light was probably the only other one to speak on this. The specific proposal we are being asked to vote upon right now is what exactly?

SENATOR VICKERS: It is a \$2.3 million additional cut to state