

SPEAKER BAACK: Are there any objections? No objections, so ordered.

SENATOR MOORE: This is the amendment Senator Withem and I co-sponsored, Mr. Clerk?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: This amendment is an amendment also dealing with the lid, dealing with school districts. Remember when we passed LB 1059 last year there was a floating lid, so to speak, that allowed school districts that were below the midpoint additional budget growth authority so they could eventually catch up at the midpoint and you remember one of the strongest criticisms of 1059 laid in the fact that school districts that were well below midpoint at a rate of...at the maximum of 6.5 percent budget growth per year, I remember the anti-1059 group said it would take 20 years for all school districts ever to catch up at the midpoint. This particular amendment would grant those school districts below the midpoint additional...the same authority they had under 1059, basically, with this, the school districts would keep that 1059 lid and, as I mentioned on the technical community college amendment, that continues on as long as this body chooses to keep it there and in my, certainly my opinion, it will be quite a while but it will simply apply to those school districts. The way the bill reads right now they could take a three-fifths majority up to 5 percent, whereas with the 1059 lid those school districts that were far below midpoint, when you extrapolate it out, this amendment will allow those that are well below midpoint to go the additional 1.5 percent if indeed there is the, well, one of the super majority vote of the board as well as if they were in the corresponding place that far below the midpoint. So, with that, if there's any other...Senator Withem would have the rest of the balance of my opening time if he would like to explain it further.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, thank you, Senator Moore. And I would like to explain it a little more. Senator Moore did an excellent job explaining what I would call the philosophical arguments on why this is a good idea to maintain part of the goal that we established when we passed LB 1059 and that was looking at the fact that there are some school districts that