

January 22, 1992 LB 522

Withem amendment. Anyone else wishing to discuss the Withem amendment to the Chizek amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Withem, did you wish to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, again, the amendment, itself, is one that limits the rather broad applicability that is currently in the amendment to 446, to the term contractor and employee of contractors. School districts have a wide, wide range of contracts with whom they do business, and this simply would say that the criminal background check applies to those which have direct access to children. So with that, if you would, I'd appreciate your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. You have heard the closing on the amendment by Senator Withem to the amendment offered by Senator Chizek. We will now vote on that amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Withem's amendment to the Chizek amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment is adopted. We are now back to the Chizek amendment as amended. Senator Horgan, did you wish to address the Chizek amendment?

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I would rise in support of the Chizek amendment. I have to tell you, I am not a great supporter of the concept that we will single out teachers in LB 522, and I think...but more than that, I was opposed to the idea that we were going to single them out for fingerprinting. I think there is more than a public relations problem whenever you deal with students and children in our society, and I think that problem goes beyond school teachers and bus drivers. I think it goes to every professional who may be involved with children. But I do think that we have a responsibility to the citizens of the state, and particularly to the parents and to the children of the state, to say that we are going to do everything we can within reason to ensure that a safe environment for them, and that they are dealing with professionals and other employees of school districts, who we know beyond a reasonable doubt have good solid backgrounds. Senator Chizek's amendment deals with my major problem of fingerprinting, and I think in the future sometime we ought to look at the possibility of doing a fingerprint background check