

General File and it happens a lot where amendments will be added on Select File. Senator Bromm didn't come up and others didn't come up and talk about those amendments that were offered just on Select File. This bill was brought back to the second round of debate and it had a tremendous debate, pro and con. The vote was very close, and as all controversial bills are, that's the nature of these kinds of votes where you don't know what's going to happen until the final count is made. And there will be then a separate round of debate for this issue which will be on Final Reading and there will be motions to withdraw...to strike the enactment clause. The bill will be brought back, I mean, for sake of discussion, and there will be one more round, thorough round of discussion on this bill and then there will be a vote to see whether or not this bill, as amended, will pass. It's a very good system. This process has worked very well. It's got excellent debate compared to other debate topics we've had with fewer senators present. I wish on all bills that I had, controversial or not, that I would have the...the luxury of having 48 or 49 senators here really understanding the issue, having a thorough hearing and debate and having a vote up or down. That's the dream of democracy. That's the dream of our representational government and that's the dream of our government, it happened here today as well, as with other issues. The process works very, very well.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Any other discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, Senator Withem, do you wish to close?

**SENATOR WITHEM:** Yes, I do. Three points that were brought up. Number one, Senator Moore, I appreciate very much your bringing up the issue you brought up. I think it's a good one and I wish we would have had more time to discuss it. It may not surprise you to know my conclusion is 180 degrees opposite of yours. I've worked on this school reorganization issue, oh, about seven years now and originally when I sat down at the table, naive, young senator that I was, or naive, middle-aged senator that I was, I thought, yeah, the logical conclusion of this is all property in the K-12 system would allow people to form Class VIs any place they want to. There's a lot of opposition to the formation of new Class VIs and most of it centers around the fact that most of the pressure around the state prior to this to form a Class VI has been because it will cause people's taxes to be lower. With this amendment adopted and this bill passed, that's no longer a reason for forming a Class VI. It will not