

to keep it at 7% is that if we do repeal the local lid we need to have the option of allowing the local citizens, if they feel that there is excessive spending at the local level, the opportunity in a manner that is not prohibitive to impose a local lid and I think that is local control at its finest. So I certainly believe that we need to pass this legislation but I think also we have to keep in mind if we do repeal the overall lid, we cannot impose barriers that are unreasonable upon local governments and local taxpayers and I certainly would support the bill at this point but keep in mind also the repeal of the overall lid which will be considered shortly by the body.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I really believe this bill is absolutely needed and having a school district in my district that has lived under the zero lid for two years and knowing full well that the impact that it has had even though I am not really concerned about the serious effect on the education of the children, if it would continue as it now is for an indefinite period of time it certainly would be a problem for our education system. This bill does provide for a lid to be imposed but it also provides for the removal of that lid in a reasonable manner. We had the bills before us. We had two bills a year ago. Neither one of those were successful. Had we had one of those at least, it dealt with a serious problem of percentage of registered voters, we probably would not have had a need for a complete rewrite this year. I think the bill is really reasonable, one that everyone can live with including the taxpayers and it does not shut them out. It does give them that opportunity for local control in a reasonable and well run manner. I urge you to support the bill and move it over to E & R. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Stoney moves to amend the bill by striking Section 7.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if you will refer to your copy of LB 17 you will find that Section 7 provides that the two school districts that presently are facing budget limitations, that being Omaha Public School District and the Nebraska Public Schools, are now totally exempt from the action that was taken by the voters in those individual districts to place budget limitations on those particular budgets. Ladies and gentlemen, I think that this is a very important issue. I think that the bill does address now some of the problems and the conflicts that we had in earlier legislation in statute but I personally