

portation, secondly, clarification of revenues and expenditures to be placed in or made from a fund and the authority for the Nebraska Department of Education to promulgate the rules and regulations for that fund. I move for the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments as explained by Senator Koch. All those in favor of adoption of those amendments vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted on the adoption of the committee amendments? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The committee amendments to 498 are adopted. Senator Barrett, do you wish to explain the bill?

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 498 as amended refers to all school districts which are now transporting children to and from school or to and from school related activities. You will notice that the bill was heard by the Education Committee on the 24th day of February, 1980. There was no opposition to the bill at that time. The necessity for 498 is essentially because transportation needs in our school districts are competing with educational programs for budget dollars. LB 498 simply authorizes a school district to set aside a special fund for transportation needs separate from the school's general budget. The transportation fund would then be used for the purchase of vehicles, operational costs, maintenance, insurance and so forth. You will note in the bill that there is a section which precludes a school district from using the special transportation fund for capital construction. It will be impossible for a school district to use the funds in the special fund for a construction or housing of school vehicles. The bill provides for a separate tax levy in addition to the other school taxes to be collected in the same manner that they are now collected. The Board of Education will report tax receipts, projected expenses of the district and of course the necessary tax rate to support those transportation programs. The fund used for transportation will be excluded from the 7% budget limitation. Historically I believe that Section 79, I believe it is 487, now provides that a school provides transportation funds out of a general fund. Receipts are now subject to the Political Subdivision Budget Limitation Act of 1979 and in light of the lid problems that our school districts are having it is my feeling and the feeling of the Education Committee that this is a very necessary step to take