

minimum salary of \$18,000. That is left in the bill. A second point to be money distributed to local school districts to increase everyone's salary, that is left in the bill. A third phase, 15 percent of the amount for paying providers to implement locally negotiated performance salary increases, the committee amendments strikes that portion of the bill. These are the committee amendments. I would urge the Legislature to adopt the committee amendments. It puts the bill in a much more, I think, a realistic phase. It will give us an opportunity to debate the merits of the proposal as we go forward. I would simply close on the committee amendments and urge you to adopt them.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, please, on the amendments. Okay, Senator Lynch, on the amendments.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I just want to stand to ask for your support for the amendments. Those people who support the legislation agree that these are good amendments and would hope that you would support these amendments.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Lynch, would you like to explain the bill briefly, or do you wish to go directly to the other amendments that are pending?

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I would prefer to do that, if I could just ask for the body's indulgence to make just a couple of comments, and that is that this is one of those pieces of legislation that is obviously very important, not just because of the funds involved, but because of the principle and because of the need. You have been inundated with all kinds of information, I am sure. I just want to assure you that in the process of introducing the legislation we won't read through a whole series of propaganda statements otherwise for the bill that you have already, hopefully, had a chance to review. I would hope that we could go just to the amendments, and I would simply like to tell the body that Laurie and I and other people who support this legislation have tried to prepare ourselves