

this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall the Baack amendment to LB 438 be adopted? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. President, on adoption of the Baack amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein, on the bill as amended.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, thank you. I simply want to reiterate much of what has been said. This is an attempt to make this an entirely state supported school. It returns it to the status that it was prior to 1974 when it was inadvertently required tuition to be paid from local school districts to attend these two schools. Prior to that it had been a 100 percent supported by state funds. This is an effort to take the cost factor out of the equation, in many cases, where local school districts when they send a student to this local school...to one of these two schools, they have to pay tuition locally. In many the tuition varies based on where the local school district's per pupil cost is. For some of them it becomes quite an inordinate or a high cost, a high cost or a burdensome cost to send their children to these schools if it was called for in their plan. And so, as a result, many times perhaps the care...the care of the child is not at the...placed at the best interest of either the child or in many cases the parents' wish. This is an attempt to then perhaps make that a state supported function entirely that the child will get the best possible education. They may choose to go one year, two years, or many years. It's an option that will be available that they can be considered in their plan. I could give personal...or cite personal examples of what it has become. We had some very good testimony given in the committee, especially from the visually handicapped of the value that they receive from this school. And there is an outstanding example of a student that went 12 years to the school at Nebraska City and now is a student at the Oxford University in England, having gotten a very good, high quality education at the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped. Many of you are also