

Building done in oak. It was done by the principal of the school over at Cedar Rapids, which is in Boone County in my district, and he had the help of one of his students, I believe, to do that. I thought you might be interested in knowing that this came from my district and I also would like to acknowledge the fact that it was commissioned by Gil Grady and Associates and it will be on display in their place of business after it has been in our Capitol for a week. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk, LB 611.

CLERK: Mr. President, 611 was a bill that was introduced by Senator Moore, Rod Johnson, and Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 19 of this year, Mr. President. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Revenue Committee. (See page 1092 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: On the committee amendments, Chairman Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. LB 611 was a bill that was brought by Senator Moore to the Revenue Committee. It is a bill that deals with changing the structure with regard to the funding of education at the local level through the use of an income tax. The committee amendments rewrite the entire bill and they are in a white copy in the front of the bill book prior to LB 611. There is an amendment to the committee amendments that would strike approximately three sections of the committee amendments, and I am going to just deal with the two sections that would be remaining with the adoption of the Moore amendment to the committee amendments. But prior to that, I just would talk a little bit about why I am going to support that amendment, and what brought us to that point. LB 611 is not a new idea. It is one that Senator Moore has brought for at least the last two years to the Revenue Committee, and prior to that, Senator Remmers, Senator Sieck, and I think Senator Burrows brought a bill similar to this, in some form or fashion, to the body to be addressed. So the idea is at least ten years old and probably much older than that, but it is a restructuring with regard to how we fund education. It moves us away from the reliance on property tax for the sole purpose of funding education for the primary and secondary levels. Statewide, approximately 62 percent of our property taxes go toward education costs in some form or fashion, whether