

sides, but I think this set of amendments do a couple of things that I think are very worthwhile. Number one, it tends to answer most of the concerns of most people on both sides. Senator Warner had a very real legitimate concern about maintenance of effort, and by creating the two programs, we are able then to deal with the maintenance of effort approach. There were some concerns that if we had two different programs, then the Legislature through the Appropriations Committee would simply recommend funding for one program that is favorable to the publics over the one that is favorable to the privates, and we have a provision here indicating that, in Section 30 of the bill, that the two programs will be funded substantially equal amounts, and it otherwise would then become a violation of the statute, and I would not just say it is not intent language, it goes into the statute. What we are doing is the program that many of you maybe were lobbied on in LB 468 that set up the separate program, and the way 468 was originally written, the lion's share of the dollars would be appropriated to that fund and, frankly, they would be appropriated in a manner probably preferable to...favorable to the public schools. That portion of the bill is put in; also some changes in 651 to lock into the statute a distribution formula that was proposed, substantially proposed by the independent schools. I think it is a good way of resolving this issue. It is one that takes an inordinate amount of legislative time, particularly when you look at the total numbers of dollars involved with this, so I think it is a good idea, and I would urge you to adopt this. Being this is Senator Hall's original time, I would cede back any time that he may...to him more time than he may wish to use.

SPEAKER BARRETT: About 3 1/2 minutes, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The amendment before you as has been stated by both Senator Withem and Senator Warner is a compromise proposal that the three of us agreed on. Now you may be lobbied by the independents who I brought LB 651 to the body for, and they are not very happy with the proposal that is before you, but at this point in time, I am willing to support this amendment that Senator Withem, Senator Warner, and myself have come to terms on because of, specifically, the things that both of those gentlemen have pointed out. The increased funding does hold the individuals harmless with regard to the public institutions. There is an influx of an additional \$117,000, roughly, a little over that, into the private independent sector, and there is put into