

school district exist as a separate district and we should not pass any statutes to change them, the rationale being Class VI's were formed as an attempt to meet the cry to create K-12 unified districts, they are, and any changes we make that affect the free-standing Class I's should not impact on the Class VI's. I think...frankly I think the bill in its current form provides for that. If it makes it clearer for the purposes of the Class VI's that read it to adopt the portion of the Schmit amendment dealing with the affiliated levies and the mixed levies and the shared facilities and all of that do not apply to the Class VI's, you know, I have no problem supporting the Schmit amendment to clarify what I think is already the existing intent of the bill. The other provision dealing with transportation has frankly been a troubling issue and it is one that, again, frankly makes a lot more difference to a lot of people out there in the state than it does to me. Original version of the bill said they shall not provide transportation to affiliated districts. It was then changed in the committee amendments to say they shall provide transportation and the Schmit amendment now makes it say they may provide transportation which is probably the best thing to do with transportation anyway, so I plan on voting in favor of the Schmit amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore, followed by Senator Lamb.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise to support Senator Schmit's amendment. Obviously, I've been one of the people who believes in the Class VI concept to dealing with the whole school consolidation issue. I think, as Senator Withem just mentioned, it was the committee's intent not to disturb this present system which has provided a working alternative for some years now. I also share Senator Withem's concern about the fact that the transportation issue in the fourth part of the amendment is something I'm not sure what I'm comfortable with, but may I guess is as good a middle ground as any. I just simply urge the body to adopt Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, further discussion.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President, just to...I stand here to support Senator Schmit's amendment because we do have a...what I consider a successful system out there of Class VI's, Class I's.