

attacking that problem and it's the school finance review plan which will move a long way toward a tax equity sort of situation when and if it passes. When we get the two bills together, merged together, and I've told both the proponents of the tax equity portion and the opponents of it, we're going to need to take a look and see exactly how the tax equity portion of the school finance review plan impacts upon the overall tax equity here. And you may find, those of you who represent Class I's, you may find that it is not such an onerous thing at that time once you see how the school finance review plan works to equalize property tax rates. It may not be nearly as bad a situation then as it may look to you now at this point, so, Senator Landis, thank you for pointing out the fact that we do have time to review this and this does appear to be the major point of contention that remains. The point remains that this is an issue that this Legislature has spent far, far too much time on, I believe. It's an important issue that needs to be addressed, but we've locked ourselves into positions, pro-mandatory reorganization, anti-reorganization and have been unable to communicate with one another. LB 940, as we passed it several years ago and now this bill, I think, bring that issue to a head to the point where we are going to have maintenance of local control, maintenance of Class I schools for those people that genuinely want to maintain them, but an end to the unfair sort of situation that really doesn't give them an opportunity to make the decision as to whether they are keeping their schools open for education purposes or tax purposes. I'd urge you very strongly to advance LB 259 on to its next stage of consideration. It's a bill we really do have to deal with this session. It is my judgment that we are not going to go backward and reinstitute the nonresident tuition and reinstate the status quo as it has existed in the...prior to this time. I don't think we have the stomach to do that. I certainly will do all I can to keep that from happening. The other option is we have to take some affirmative action. This is the bill that is before us and I'd urge you to advance it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. A record vote has been requested. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See pages 230-31 of the Legislative Journal.) 28 ayes, 9 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 259.