

concern, and other school districts are in a similar situation, but that this change is justified and these circumstances ought to be supported by this body to recognize our unique situation and the need for a response on behalf of this Legislature in amending this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise, I guess kind of reluctantly to oppose this amendment. My district, and my district was mentioned that I represent, mainly because I...is the Bellevue district, I have a little bit of District 46 in Sarpy County and a little bit of Omaha Public Schools in my district, but I guess my opposition is that I think that, and I served before I came to the Legislature as a member of the Board of Education, and one of the things we used to do every year is we used to sit down and say, okay, how big a classroom are we going to have? What's the number, the magic number that we're going to have, and I think we used to come up around 24, 25 in a classroom. Well, my other job, I say my real job is supervising student teachers and one of the things I've done for a number of years is simply count the number of desks in a classroom. That's simply...I think Senator Landis talks about 35. I've been in some classrooms where the number is 35, so we're really...I think that there is a need, but I think, you know, you can look at, I think...I also agree that you can do a better of educating 20 or 25 students than you can 35, but I think we're really kind of treading on thin ice when we say, well, we need these classrooms because of this need and it would help talking to the person who represents the Bellevue District would really help. I guess I would see opposing this amendment at this time and look at it and see, as the commission, as Senator Moore said is going to study it for a while and simply look at it and see if it is a real big need. We...I could benefit, my district could benefit, but I still think that at the present time I'm going to vote against it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, would you like to close, please?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is supposed to be a new system of financing and it is a transfer of costs. It winds up, according to the Revenue Department, between 45 or \$50 million would transfer from urban areas to rural areas basically, and that's all right with me, that's all