

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Morrissey, we just changed the wording from "shall" to "may". It gives some flexibility to the County Reorganization Committee to allow property from a Class I district that wants to affiliate with a Class II, III, IV or V district, that it has not sent students to, to allow them to affiliate there. The legislation now says that they shall affiliate with a school district where they have sent their students. This just gives them flexibility to, it says they "may" make this determination. The board may make this determination. Like Senator Withem says, they still can require that the affiliation take place in spite of tax advantage that someone may be seeking. It doesn't say...it isn't an escape hatch for someone to get out of the...to go shopping for a tax advantage. Simply means that if they want to send their children to a school that they prefer even though it has a higher tax base, that they can do that.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Is there anyone else who wishes to debate this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Dierks? Closing is waived. We will vote on the Dierks amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 24 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Dierks' amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senators Horgan and Rasmussen and Ashford. The amendment is on page 1720 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, what this amendment does is in reference to those 29 school districts who presently receive no equalization funds and what it suggests is that when someone elects one of those districts to opt into, that the host district would receive the average tiered cost either for the state or for the tier in which they are in, whichever is less. And that is what we are proposing in the Baack amendment to do in the phase-in period