

April 22, 1991

LB 554, 659, 719

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Rasmussen's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Hefner would move to amend the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President, members of the body, this amendment can be found on page 1720. This contains provisions of LB 554. This is a bill which I introduced this year. The Education Committee heard the bill and added its provisions into the committee amendments to LB 659. I passed out a summary of what this amendment does and I'll just talk to you about it. School districts receive state aid based in part on a number of full-time pupils included in their average daily membership reports. In some districts throughout the state pupils are enrolled in private schools, denominational or parochial schools, but they attend public schools part-time, taking one or more classes. In my district I have a public school, Hartington, and they are educating some of the parochial school students and this parochial school announced that it will not be offering home ec. classes next year and at the present time they are, some of the parochial school students are taking vocational ag classes at the public schools, but the public school does not receive any state aid for doing this. And so I think that's unfair because these classes are not cheap to offer and they increase the public school's budget. Yet by law the public school must offer its classes freely to any resident of a district who wants to take one. The parents of these children support the public schools through property taxes and through the sales and income taxes under the LB 1059 formula. So it seems only fair that the public schools should get some proportion of the funds from LB 1059 for these part-time students. We don't have the exact figure on that but the administrator thought this could amount to about \$5,000. I feel that it will greatly affect them but it will have a very minor impact statewide. The State Department of Education does not allow districts to include part-time pupils in the average daily membership report. This amendment corrects that and directs that each district include part-time pupils in their average daily membership reports to the Department of Education. These reports are used by the department to determine the amount of