

considerable amount of confusion out there, if you would yield to a couple of questions first and then I'll get to the explanation of the amendment. In fact, let me do that briefly first. The amendment basically said that if we're going to get into, again, a discussion on the school...or the income tax rebate on our school refinance...our school finance system, that maybe we should go ahead and just eliminate the income tax rebate and that will take care of the whole situation. So the amendment basically says, strike the Wickersham amendment and then basically to eliminate the income tax rebate as passed in 1990 under LB 1059. So that's the nature of the amendment. Senator Bohlke. Senator Bohlke,...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...would you explain once again for people were the commi...what the committee amendment originally had and then when we divided the amendment and took out that portion and did not support it, what we ended up with. And that might help some people on the floor who are confused.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I will be happy to do that. I'm not sure that that will help people on the floor who are currently confused, but what we did when we divided the question and took out Section 36, at that time that was the Wickersham amendment. What he was attempting to do was saying that realizing that the Micron schools would not get the 20 percent, but he did not want other state aid to flow to those Micron schools. And so, at the same time, he said they would have to show it as a resource, therefore they would not look needier in the formula. I said I did not think that that was fair to the Micron schools and so what I said what would be a better policy and philosophy was recognizing the fact that, yes, as those Micron schools were going to look needier in the formula, and, yes, it would cost that formula, and I heard estimates, the worst case scenario, a million dollars, Senator Withem at one point said 300,000, someone else said 500,000, it would cost the school aid formula that amount of money. But, at the same time, we had to recognize the fact that 3,500 new employees to the state and their families would be out spending money and generating sales tax. Twenty percent of that sales tax would then flow to the school aid formula. And so it was that I said, I'm trying to think of the word that I...I think I said it softens the blow, and that's how I explained it at that time on the floor.