

the...for schools, the 1 percent over the...as the bill was introduced the 3 to 5 1/2 with a three-quarters vote and there is a minor technical change where 4 percent is changed to 3 in one of the sections to be consistent with the rest of the bill, but that's technical. So I would move adoption of the committee amendment as amended.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Warner. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 613. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 4 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator McKenzie to open on the bill.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I will just be very brief because the committee amendments become the bill. Certainly I think these are difficult times for all of us, and introducing budgetary lid bills is never without controversy, and introducing one that asks political subdivisions as important as schools to spend 1 percent less is even more difficult, and I had to relate to many of my education friends that it has not been necessarily pleasant for me personally, having been in education and still continuing to work with education. But I think we also all realize the political winds, and I think we all realize, as Senator Bohlke said, that we will be looking at major changes in the next two to four years in terms of complete reform of the way in which we collect revenues for those political subdivisions that rely on property tax, restructuring, downsizing, all the language we've heard from business in the last five years, but I also believe that it is our responsibility to look for ways to find less spending. And in light of the fact that the consumer price index does indicate that those rates are going down, that we are at less than 3 percent, there is some logic in looking for 1 percent reduction in the amount that political subdivisions spend. Again, the bill is now the committee...the committee amendments are the bill. I think we have discussed many of the issues in the first round. I know we will continue to discuss them on Select File, and we will revisit several of the other pieces, unused budget authority, and the supermajority 1 percent, as well as some specifics about our other political subdivisions.