

February 13, 1996 LB 349

the amendments as they stand right now. And that's the intent of LB 349 to include income as the determinant of wealth in the school aid formula. I just would urge advancement of the committee amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 349. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted?

SENATOR ROBAK: Madam Chairman, I think I might have to call the house, unless there's one or two senators that are in the floor somewhere. Thank you, there it goes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. We now open, turn to Senator Robak to open on LB 349.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the body. We...here at my bill, we're in the original, in original bill, the green copy of the bill or the committee amendments with Section 4 removed from the bill. As I said before, this is really a, it's really a property tax bill. This is a first, I believe the first bill on the floor that actually addressed property. Senator Bromm's comments were really right on target here because I hold town hall meetings also and the issue is property taxes. I mean property taxes even over crime or anything else that comes before the floor of the Legislature is property taxes. So this is one that really is a property tax bill. And our, this bill change...proposes a change in the school finance formula. Our current system was put in place by LB 1059, which was passed in 1990. I think Senator Withem has done a pretty good job of reiterating his bill several times in the past two days. This was called the Tax Equity and Opportunity Support Act. The primary result of the bill was property tax relief and equalization. Equalization describes the efforts to cut, to even out tax burdens in educational opportunities all across school districts in the state. Another way to say this is equalization makes the weak districts equal to the strong districts by supplying a state appropriation to