

February 13, 1996 LB 349

about 20 percent right now but, as we said, we're looking at possibly even reducing that betwe...more than that. So what are we looking at? We're looking at about nearly 80 percent on valuation. And I guess...I mean just relating to some of the rural districts, when property is their source of livelihood and their business, whereas a piece of paper may be another one's source of income, I fail to see some of the equity in this. Is Senator Withem, has he...

SENATOR COORDSEN: I have not seen Senator Withem on the floor, Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Let me ask Senator Bohlke then.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Bohlke, would you respond?

SENATOR STUHR: I'm...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes.

SENATOR STUHR: ...I'm interested in some of the surrounding states and the formulas that are used in those states. I understand Kansas relies possibly only 30 percent on property tax for the funding of their schools. Now maybe you can correct, maybe you can give me some background.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Stuhr, Kansas does a number of things such as that, but actually Kansas does LB 349, and 349 was really taken from the Kansas model. Other states have, if they have not put an equalization formula, if they have not done something similar to 1059, they have had their courts determine for them what their school finance formula would be. And so I wasn't here when they did 1059, but certainly the consideration was recognizing that we had to do something to bring equalization into the formula. And, as I recall, at that time hearing those arguments, that was really the essence of why we needed to do that, because we didn't want the court to determine. So you have all different varieties in surrounding states. But if they are to be not challenged in court, they will recognize...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...equity in the formula.