

February 13, 1996 LB 1050

SPEAKER WITHEM: I understand we have an amendment to this section of the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bohlke would move to amend. Senator, I have AM3163 in front of me. (Bohlke amendment appears on page 785 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke. By the way, there have been a number of lights on, up here, for quite some time. As Senator Bohlke begins on this amendment I'm going to clear the board. If people want to address this amendment to the amendment they should renew their light. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. You now have an amendment before you that looks at the option payments and says, all right, we've had some school districts say that that is really unfair what we have done and it would destroy what they are attempting to do with option payments. Because they have an excellent curriculum, because they have reasons that parents are wanting to choose to that school, we would really be penalizing them with what we're doing in LB 1050. And so this amendment says, all right, we want to recognize those school districts who are doing things within their curriculum and within their school that attract students. And so we will go back to the amount, the average per pupil cost, or the statewide average, whichever is lower, and we will allow that payment to occur. But the difference is currently, today, we make those payments out of the Equalization Fund. With this amendment we will make those payments out of the income tax rebate that is in 1050, that's the 83 million that is in 1050. So what are you doing? You're giving those school districts who attract non...those school districts who attract option students, because apparently they are doing something within their school where people want to send their children, you're allowing them to receive that increased amount again. You are not allowing those who are not attracting students, are going to be sending some of their income tax rebate to those schools who are attracting students. In the area of looking at being competitive and wondering why you would be attracting those students, that is a good...to me that makes perfect sense. We are, in fact, rewarding those schools who are doing a good enough job that they're attracting students. And those schools out there who are not attracting any option students are going to lose some of that income tax