

February 13, 1996 LB 1050

rebate to those schools. The other thing that everyone has agreed on in option students is that we will only, in 1050 as it is, or with the amendment, we only consider those net option students. We have discussed that before, that currently if you're a school district and you option in 12 students and you option out 10 students, you're getting...the school district's getting payments for the 10 that are optioning out, and you're getting them for all 12 that are optioning in. With both of these you would only get the net amount, the 2. So that...that is in both of these. But in this amendment it...it rewards those school districts who are doing a good job of attracting option students. And it does take it from the fixed amount of income tax rebate, that 83 million, instead of from the equalization formula. But if you believe that choice is a good option for parents, and if you believe that school districts are doing things within their curriculum to make their district more attractive to those parents to send their children, then I think...then you would want to support this amendment. It does take some of the income tax rebate...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...from those schools out there who are not getting any option students, but in my mind that is perfectly fine. That brings competition in and makes those school districts competitive. I know it's something that other senators have said that they would like to see. And certainly we had one superintendent come and talk about, in a very small school district, that they were getting a number of option students from three other school districts. The question is, why would those three other school districts continue to get state aid, or continue to get...even qualify for some of the income tax rebate in the form that they currently are if they do not have a program that even attracts people into their school district, but in fact parents are optioning to send their children to a nearby school district? I think it brings a portion of competitiveness that is attractive to the bill, and I hope that you will support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. I had mistakenly told you one minute, you actually had six more minutes left, but you don't have to use them. (Laughter.)

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thanks a lot, Mr. Speaker.