

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

very difficult when you talk about the income tax rebate and what we're doing on option payments. The next issue is transportation. And as we have...we looked at the cost of transportation for schools who have high transportation costs. We looked at a way to try and recognize some of those costs differently. As you know now, schools are in tiers. And what happens is we let, say there are ten schools in a tier. And there are, there's one school now that has very high transportation costs. In that same tier there's another school that may have actually no transportation costs. When they figure their average tiered costs, what happens is that the school with the high transportation costs actually gets pulled down, they do not get their full costs realized. And actually those with little or no cost get inflated, which is something that is really not equitable. So what this does is allow the school districts to pull out transportation separately from the rest of the tiered costs to look at it and then they're going to be able to plug it back into the tier. Originally we were just going to pull out all the general, the regular transportation costs. But the question came up in committee, how are we going to have any containment on that? If you pull, if you let schools pull that out and just figure their full transportation costs, what would be the incentive to have them keep those costs under control? And so what we did is we looked at the average transportation costs and figured a formula that would be, if you paid the school districts 400 percent of their transportation cost, 400 percent...no, 400 percent times what we pay, the 29 cents a mile that we pay, you come out a little below average. So you let them figure that...you let them figure it separately before they put it back in, but you keep their average costs a little below average. If you would have put it right at average, we would have been at 475 percent. The feeling of the committee and the recommendation of the committee was that actually we wanted to keep them at...below average. And so that's the reason for the 400 percent. And I will attempt to answer any questions. I think this one is one that probably is much less controversial and hopefully something that we could get moved along quickly so we can get to the next portion of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I have a number of lights on. Senator Abboud, did you wish to speak to this division? Okay. Senator Bohlke, did you wish to speak again? Senator Bohlke waives off. Senator Beutler.