

eligible for up to 40 percent of their annual debt retirement payments, to be paid out of the school bond state aid. Districts equal to the state average will be eligible for 20 percent of their annual debt retirement payments to be paid out of school bond state aid. And districts with adjusted valuation per students above the state average are eligible to receive less than 20 percent, to a point where districts that are double the state average or more would receive no assistance. So we have a linear progression on the amount of aid from the school bond state aid that's being proposed in this amendment. To make sure that it's brought to everyone's attention, I want everyone to note that access to this resource by the small by choice districts is restricted. Funding from the rebate pool within the 1059 formula contributes to the equalization concept and, I believe, has significant statewide support. We have to realize as we provide financial assistance to the school districts that an important component of providing quality education, not the only component but a component of providing educational opportunity to students across our state is based upon the facilities that various districts are able to have to provide up-to-date, quality education for their students. I think it's important that this be a part of our equalization process. I believe that it needs to be addressed. And I hope that, after understanding that this is a new concept, that you would consider the amendment that's before you to be added to the 1050...LB 1050. With that, Madam President, I tried to be as succinct as possible. I'd be more than willing to try to answer any questions that members might have. I do have some information relative to another printout that would give an idea of how this would affect various school districts and also the state as a whole. Under this information that was provided from 1993-1994 data, approximately 135 school districts would receive assistance through the formula that's addressed in this amendment. I'd be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have, and if not, I think that there are individuals within hearing range that will be able to provide and answer those questions for the members. So I would ask for the adoption of AM3356.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. For discussion on the Maurstad amendment, Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Madam President, members, Senator Maurstad, as I understand it, the money that we're talking about