

in this amendment would come out of the rebate money. Is that correct?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Maurstad, will you respond?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Madam Chairman, that is correct, as...you know, it would be roughly that \$10.3 million, or 10 percent of the income tax rebate fund. So we would be talking about that fund. And if I could just make one comment that I didn't address in my opening statement. If in fact the...there was more need out there than what the funds, the \$10 million, would provide, that there is a mechanism in the amendment to prorate that...what is available out to the school districts that qualify.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. And Senator Maurstad and I have had discussions on this. I know and recognize the particular problem he has in his school district, and not only his school district, but I think other school districts. The problem is that we have now taken the option payments out of the rebate, and so this would take another category of payments out of the rebate, another \$10 million. When you do that, you're lowering that amount of money to all school districts that they would be receiving from the rebate. I am sympathetic to the needs of what Senator Maurstad is talking to in Beatrice, but I do not think that on this bill we want to further reduce the rebate. And so, for that reason, further reducing the rebate by \$10 million I think would be a mistake. And I know Senator Maurstad knows that I have not been supportive of this issue for that reason. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Abboud followed by Robinson, Maurstad, Warner, and Vrtiska. Senator Abboud. He waives off. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, Senator Maurstad, this money would be taken out of equalization funds, did you say?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Maurstad, will you respond?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. No, Senator Robinson, this would set up 10 percent of the income tax rebate dollars would go to...