

amount available for appropriation to the fund is estimated to be 131,000. So it would be a change where 6,200,000 would be going to the Equalization Fund. So what we're...what I'm attempting to do with this particular amendment, again, is to freeze that level at...for the '96-97 year. For the '97-98 year it reduces the amount again to 119,900...119,900,000. And then during the final year, '98-99, it reduces the amount to the original portion of the bill, which was 102 million. And that's what the, this particular amendment does do. You know, it's interesting, when you're looking at this whole issue, I've seen a number of different charts about the amount of money that has gone into these funds and it has increased on a yearly basis. Annually, the state continues to put more and more money...more and more money comes out of this School District Income Tax Fund and I guess that reflects the growth in our state. So the amount that they're attempting to tap in with this bill would, I assume, increase. And I feel that it was a matter of fairness that a three-year phase-in is something that the districts will still feel, but their property taxes will not go up quite as fast. And more importantly, they won't go up in the coming fiscal year to the level that they would have if the bill was enacted as it currently stands. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS PRESIDING

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President and members, I think that the initial comments by Senator Abboud talk about what something we need to be reminded, and that's the basic philosophy of the bill. And actually, Senator Abboud raises a point that I think that is all the reason that we now need 1050, that it's even more imperative than ever. But let's go at his first comments that the printout will show about children, 56 percent of the children being hurt. We know that the printouts and the numbers that have been given to everyone are not a guarantee. They are actually only a model of what could happen. And not only that, they're based on last year. So we cannot say, as Senator Abboud has said, that 56 percent of the children will lose. That simply cannot be, no one knows the facts. Here are the...but here's the fact that we do know and what we have said about 92 percent of the children. We know that the schools who receive equalization aid will rep...with LB 1050, will now have