

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 3, 1999 LB 149

closing. The amendment before us...the motion before us is the adoption of Amendment 164. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Bohke's amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The motion is adopted. We will now return to discussion on the advancement of LB 149 to E & R Initial. Chair recognizes Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we have...we spend so much time talking about state aid and we...last...last year, I think it was, there was a statement made on the floor that we were going to...we were no longer going to legislate by printout, and I was absolutely delighted with that statement because I thought, well, at least we're going to talk about the policy that is directing what we're doing in terms of funding for education rather than constantly pouring over the numbers and seeing who wins and who loses and not having some sort of stable policy that guides us and that...that helps us know that what we're doing has some meaning besides whether it's a win or lose situation. I'm going to concentra...there are three parts of the bill and I'm going to concentrate on Section 2, which is the aspect which reinstates what I consider a windfall that was created by overfunding that we did in 806A. And if we believe that there is a policy that is more than just providing more money, then we have to look at what that policy is and, as I understand the policy, we have the needs of...the needs, as determined by the average cost per pupil, and we subtract the resources that a school district has to bring to it in terms of what they are receiving in property tax, and that equals the state aid amount. What happened, in my estimation, is that the needs may have been down a little bit. The resources were higher because of valuation increases and we had an amount that we had allocated for state aid. So we had, in this formula, three sets of fixed numbers and so some...some place it had to give because the amount that we had put in, the \$130 million that we had put into the state aid formula, the 110 million that was a part of 806A, and the 20 million, around 20 million that generally goes each year into the state aid, because that amount was so high it had to drive down...drive up