

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

March 23, 1999 LB 495

committee amendment as adopted (sic).

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Which I...I think so.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein, I assume that you don't want the rest of your time, or would you like to stand at ease?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: We'll stand at ease for a moment.

EASE

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the committee amendments. (FA63 is found on page 1157 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on the amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, all this amendment would do...well, not all that it would do, what the amendment would do would be to say that any local system that was not levying up to 95 percent of their maximum levy would not be...could not be a recipient of these funds, and the reason for that is quite simple. It's in order to follow the general educational philosophy that we've gone along with in this state generally and that is that there ought not be state aid going to school systems that have sufficient property and valuation to do these things themselves. One of the problems with this bill that was mentioned by Senator Wickersham and others was the fact that it's outside of the state aid formula, and that means that rich schools and poor schools are going to be competing for the same funds when what we've tried to do with regard to school kids in the state is to see that all of the school kids in the state have equal access to educational opportunities, and we've tried to do that through the formula. And whether or not you agree with the formula, the debate ought to be on changing the formula or looking at the formula altogether rather than establishing programs that are outside of