

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1107

the adoption of the Raikes amendment to LB 1107. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 2 nays on the adoption of Senator Raikes' amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is agreed to. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next amendment, Mr. President, was offered by Senator Beutler; this is AM2797. (Legislative Journal page 1028.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment that, if adopted, I think I could vote for this bill. What the bill does in its general thrust, as you know, is to lock in a certain commitment from the Legislature with respect to state aid. There are different aspects to the state aid problem and to the school aid problem, generally. And I think that one of the aspects that goes along with any kind of commitment like this is a commitment to look at seriously the organizational structure of the schools, because we all know that schools can be organized in such a way that they do not take advantage of economies of scale. And I believe that, if we're going to commit ourselves to state aid in a significant and a permanent sort of way, that we also need to make the concomitant commitment to be sure that schools are organized institutionally so as to take advantage of economies of scale. What this amendment does is to ask the state Department of Education to do a study. It doesn't require any action, except a study on the part of the Department of Education, and it indicates that they should study the school systems in the standard cost grouping. Now, remember, that the standard cost grouping is separate from the sparse and very sparse and, to the extent that schools may not take advantage of economies of scale, may not be efficiently organized within the cost grouping of standard, that failure to organize efficiently is a choice, not a geographic distance kind of requirement. So this study has only to do with the standard cost grouping. And it says that the state department shall recommend to the Legislature, by December 1, 2001, a detailed plan to reduce the