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 LR 424-427

there were about 35 or maybe more, and I'll check those numbers, school districts who had not. It may have been a larger number. And so at first I thought, well, they must not have standards, but then the other issue may be that remember in order to access those funds you must have an alternative education plan, not a program but you must have a plan. Well, I believe there are some school districts who have not done that, but we do not know how many school districts exactly have not adopted standards. That may be an indication to you that probably it's a very small number and it would be my guess that many of those schools who had not tried to access those lottery funds, it would have been over the issue of an alternative education plan. Because for a number of years that had been very controversial on the floor and we heard from a number of schools who objected, saying that they have never had to have a student in alternative education and they objected to having to have a program. The compromise was to develop a plan, and they may not have done that. But the reason I give you this background is, as we return from lunch, I think that we need to understand how big of a problem is this, how many schools have not adopted standards that meet or exceed the State Board of Education's, and then the issue of is it the Legislature that should mandate this or is this a policy issue from the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education has chosen not to mandate it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: And, as we proceed with the discussion and the debate, I would say that it would probably center around those two issues. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Mr. Clerk, items for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, study resolutions. (Read LR 424-427 by title for the first time.) And the bill read on Final Reading, Mr. President, was presented to the Governor at 11:40 a.m. (Re LB 1349) That's all that I have at this time. (Legislative Journal pages 1346-1348.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Smith.