

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 26

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the adoption of E & R amendments to LB 26.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Question is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 26. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The amendments are agreed to.

CLERK: Senator Bromm would move to amend the bill. (AM3255, Legislative Journal page 1618.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bromm, you're recognized to open on your amendment to LB 26.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor. Members of the Legislature, I have talked to Senator Lynch about this and also some of the members of the Education Committee out of which this bill was advanced, and my amendment does...does one thing. It amends the E & R amendments to provide that to qualify for the five-cent reimbursement a school district shall operate a school lunch program and it strikes the language which says: and the district shall have had equalized aid. So it will apply to all school districts whether they have equalized aid or not. There are about three reasons that I'm doing this. First of all, if we're going to do this program and if the purpose is to "incent" schools to offer breakfast or to make it more financially possible for them and we want to actually get kids into all these schools for breakfast then it makes no sense to differentiate between whether equalized or nonequalized schools are involved. Secondly, with regard to our reimbursement for lunches, which we do to the tune of 1.7 cents on the state side, we don't differentiate between equalized versus nonequalized schools. Thirdly, the federal reimbursement doesn't differentiate between equalized and nonequalized schools. The differentiation is whether the kids are eligible for free lunch, reduced lunch, or whether they're full-pay students. There's a different level of reimbursement on the federal level depending on whether you are free lunch, reduced lunch, or full pay, and that's...that's the criteria. I'm not necessarily in favor of starting this program at this point in time, but I'm certainly not against trying to encourage schools to offer breakfast, and if we're going to start the program, and it looks to me like we