

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, you have heard the discussion for an hour now or an hour and a half on the proposed amendments to LB 662. I'm not going to elaborate. If these amendments are adopted and the bill is returned to Final Reading, without any question we will offer an amendment to specifically take out that severability language that some folk thought was offensive and in addition we will offer an amendment to deal with Senator Smith's concern that ninth and tenth graders should likewise be included in that temporary period of time when they could continue in a school that they were in following a merger. I know that there are...I hear Senator Scofield speak again and again about the lack of progress and the lack of dealing with this and the fact that it seems to be a win or lose situation. I may be wrong, but I am convinced in my heart of hearts that we are all working so that we can resolve a very difficult issue and we are not doing it with a win or lose mentality, but we are doing it with a let's make certain we ultimately get the job taken care of mentality. And by that I mean we are putting in language which we hope is of benefit to people. We're doing the very best job we can. We're delaying the effective date. We're allowing for a study. We don't pretend to have an answer to all the problems. Things can be changed in subsequent years, but you've got to get the ball rolling and it has to be rolling now. These amendments are simply part and parcel of that overall good faith attempt to make certain we get a job done and we get it done well. With that I would offer the amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the memorandum that you have in front of you, mainly one through six. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 10 nays on adoption of Senator Johnson's amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Johnson amendment is adopted. Senator Johnson. A machine vote has been requested on advancing the bill back to E & R. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. You are voting on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I guess I'm going to have to make certain that we all check in