

February 28, 1996 LB 604

Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Schrock, to open on the bill.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I introduced this bill last year because of some inequities that I saw when affiliation took place several years ago. Of course, to go back in history a little bit, at one time Class Is were, were supposed to have been done away with by the Legislature, but, of course, the voters reversed that issue. But it is required now that all Class I districts be part of a K-12 system and that pay an affiliated tax rate, so that everybody within the same K-12 system pays the same tax rate. This affected my county, my area rather dramatically because we have, we had four rather large Class I school districts. And it came to my attention when people started affiliating their land that a lot of checkerboarding took place. Some people affiliated their land based because they thought they would get cheaper taxes. They didn't exactly affiliate to the district closest to them. Well, what this does in future, in future dissolutions of K-12 systems where, where a district may want to go to a Class I system but they need to become part of a high school district, it says that the affiliation will have to make some sense and will not end up with a checkerboard pattern. I would reiterate, this does not go back and redo anything that's been done in the past. This is just for future affiliation with school districts that may be dissolving and want to become part of another district. It says that the district boundaries must be contiguous and that a tract of land should be at least 20 percent adjacent to the high school district it is affiliating with. There are some exceptions. And the exceptions would be that if a student wants to go to a high school that their property is not contiguous, that would be an exception. And it could track this land back for a ten-year history. I think it's a fairly straightforward bill. We have a school district in my district, Campbell, that now has affiliated with about five or six different districts. They're going...they're having five school buses come into that community every morning and every evening to pick up and drop