

at the local level because the local officials will wilt under the pressure. What the amendment does, and it is a problem, and it's one that this Legislature needs to deal with, we have children right now, at least in my district, who aren't going to school, and I don't think you want that, Senator Dworak. The parents are incurring bills of a hundred and fifty dollars or more. They cannot afford to pay those bills. The kids are not going to school. They're not going to school. The parents are caught in a bind. The state law requires that they go to school, but they can't afford to pay those bills, because state law requires that only one child...only the first child shall get that mileage. So a family that has four, five, six, seven kids, and they do have them out in this trailer court, Senator Dworak, they can't afford to make the payment. The school district cannot afford, and Elkhorn has had a tremendous...probably is the fastest growing school district in the state, had a twenty-seven percent increase in enrollment two years ago, has had a drastic increase in enrollment this past year also. The school district cannot afford the ninety thousand dollars or more that it costs to buy the buses, and that it costs to have drivers drive those buses, and to upkeep those buses. So that's why they've gone into this program. The people cannot afford to pay the cost of the private buses. It's as simple as that. The superintendent of schools has asked for this. The board of education does not oppose it. It is merely permissive, and for those of you who support the concept of local control, this allows them to do that. I urge to have 425 returned for the specific amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion before the House is the return of LB 425 for the purpose of the specific amendment referred to. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Clerk, record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays on the motion to return, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion passes. The bill is returned and will be taken up when the Speaker puts it on Select File, Senator Simon. We are now...we are still...I remind you, we are still on Final Reading, and we will, so the Sergeant at Arms will make sure that all the members are back at their desks. Just to explain to the people in the gallery again, I have just stated there is no debate on Final Reading. The only exception of that is when there is a motion to return a bill to Select File, as you noted this morning, then there was debate on the matter of the return of the bill. Technically, they were discussing the amendment, but only technically, because it was for the matter of the return. We will now return to Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, you will read on Final Reading LB 305.