

April 10, 1980

LB 1002

which no longer is viable to come to the floor. It would essentially solve the problem but I'd certainly like to see it relieved and take off the constitutional pressures, the pressures for a constitutional amendment by the people to hold back this property tax this year where it may freeze the legislative body by some super majority of four-fifths vote. It has been done in other states and we are not in a position to provide adequate funding at or in a reasonable manner. So I support this measure. I would support the equal per pupil distribution across the state which would be much better for the rurals. We are eventually going to lose the personal property tax funds, I am sure, the advantage we have ruralwise there, and these two issues maybe should be stuck together and come up with a reasonable measure of all funds being distributed across the state where we can constitutionally do it. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I stand to support Senator Vickers' amendment and, briefly, just three things. I get a little tired of making this argument. I have made it for eighteen years and I will just say it one more time. The reason valuations were used in 1963, '65, '67, '69, '71, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, and 1980 is that that was the only measurement of ability to pay that exists for the operation of school districts as they are primarily supported from property tax. I have never defended that as the right way but it is the only one that exists. That is why it is used and it is that simple. That has always been the case. We enacted legislation back in '71 to require the personal income tax that we report it by school district and to my knowledge that has never been available to this Legislature excepting one year. I had a copy that the Department of Revenue said was not exact because there was too many errors. So enough for that. The only issue involved today is whether or not you want to increase state aid to schools or not. Distribution is not a factor in 1002. If you want to distribute the money on a per pupil basis, then you vote against 486 because that is where all the money would go. That is the way the amendment is drafted. If you want to do a new and a better formula, then you will vote for 486 and the money will be allocated accordingly. So I would suggest we adopt the amendment and get on. It is written in such a way that on the final day you can incrementally override, if you wish, any portion and you will be doing it when you know what the total budget is and I think it is an excellent procedure for us to work with and I would hope that the body would support