

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 440. All those in favor of the adoption vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Okay, record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kilgarin, do you wish to explain your bill and then we go to Senator Haberman.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Colleagues, Mr. Speaker, LB 440 is basically permissive legislation and especially since the committee amendments were adopted the technical changes were made to make sure it's permissive and it provides a clear statutory option to local school boards to appoint a nonvoting member representative on the school board. In terms of concept the measure is really taken directly from what has always been a fundamental concept of America and that is those who are affected by governmental decisions should have a voice in those decisions. This was recognized back when the voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow a student member to sit on the Board of Regents. In terms of legislation LB 440 extends that same recognition to secondary schools, yet it is on the basis of option to be exercised at the discretion of the school board individually. For several reasons I think I'd better emphasize that it is a voluntary effort, a voluntary decision to be made by the individual school board. In the past school boards which may have opted to have a student member serve on that board have not known for sure whether or not the state law permitted a student member to serve. LB 440 clearly says that a student member may serve at the discretion of the local board. Having a student member doesn't change the numerical composition of the school board but it is a nonvoting member and it is at the option. A guideline for selection is offered in the bill and it provides that the representative shall be a student body president or a senior class representative or a representative elected by the entire student body. The provision also insures that the student rep is not only one whom students themselves has already placed trust in but one who has displayed interest and commitment and responsibility that is necessary for some meaningful representation on the school board. When I was in high school there were instances where I wanted to have input into the political system and yet I was not sure of what avenue there was for a student to have input into school board policy. If LB 440 passes and school boards exercise their option