

Dakota statutes but I think the only thing the South Dakota statutes says was five students and then if they have fewer than that they have to close. It didn't say anything about the schools being able to maintain their facilities and the same quality of education. I think that would be a nightmare trying to enforce that kind of a regulation. In the first place you'd have Class I's insisting on things maybe they were not entitled to. You'd have to go to court to prove that they were being treated properly. I'm not questioning the motives of the introducers of this bill, but I do not believe they really understand the tax levies, how they bear on different schools in the rural areas. You're going to find that as far as tax equity all we're going to do is shift the tax equity.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR REMMERS: You're going to find some Class III districts that are going to be worse off than they are today. One big reason though that I am opposing this bill is some of the same things that Senator DeCamp said. I oppose the homestead exemption, I oppose the local sales tax for cities and I oppose this bill because it does not address the thing that we need to address first and that is more state aid to our schools. I think if we would increase the state aid substantially, most of these problems would go away. And that is probably the biggest reason why I'm opposing 662. Its not going to do the job at all. I think you're going to find out you're going to be very disappointed in the results if this bill passes in it's present form. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Loran Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I did not vote to put this bill on the floor for some of the same reasons that Senator Remmers has just mentioned. But now that the bill is out here I'm not going to vote to kill and I'll tell you why. Basically for the same reasons that Senator DeCamp gave you, the issue is one of equity and taxation and it's a broad issue and there are many people here today, some on the floor and some in the balconies, who have talked about it for years but who have done nothing about it. Senator Carsten, for years as Chairman of the Revenue Committee, tried to address that problem and we were never able to get any kind of consensus.