

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I would like to comment very briefly on the affiliation portions of this amendment. The issue raised in #2 and #4 and #6 are all designed to make the affiliation work, work as it would work if in fact they were a part of the same district, which they in fact would be for the high school portion of the education of the children. In #2, it is simply a matter of equity and fairness to say to both districts that you follow the procedures to determine whether or not you become affiliated. It is the same as it is applied to the Class I district right now under the affiliation. We are simply applying it to the receiving district as well. It is the same as the procedures that would be followed if they were fully merging their districts, both elementary and high school. On #4 the issue of whether bond issuances should be approved by all of the voters, all of the taxpayers paying the bill, is I think an important one, one that ought to be there. If they are going to be assessed the costs, they ought to have a say as to whether or not they, in fact, are going to be paying for that building. On #6 the issue of transportation, Senator Remmers raised a question as to whether or not that was all the transportation. No, it is not. It is only that portion of the transportation that applies to the high school portion of the education. Now let me point out to you that part of that transportation, a large part of that transportation is transportation for extracurricular activities. Now there are going to be students, student athletes on teams or other activities that they are going to be bused to that come from the affiliated district as well as from the receiving district and it only makes sense that the transportation that is transporting all of these students for the various activities be included as part of the expenses to all those taxpayers. The severability issue, I would like to speak briefly to that, that Senator Lamb mentioned, the severability issue is one that I don't believe is necessary to be used. I don't think that it is unconstitutional to have the vote of the people and I disagree with Senator Lamb that it was put in for sugarcoating. I think it was put in in good faith. At least in my particular position, it was certainly put in in good faith because I had another bill that is still setting in the Education Committee that would do exactly same thing that didn't bring about mergers, but it said if following