

next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Avery would move to amend. Senator, I have a note that you want to withdraw this and substitute AM3971.

SENATOR AVERY: That's right. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Request for a substitution. Is there any objection? Hearing none, it is so ordered.

CLERK: AM3971 in front of me, Senator. (See page 1368 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President. Yeah, this amendment has worked out and it...this deals with Senator Schimek's amendment that dealt with the small amount of equipment that was needed for the visually impaired individuals in order, I believe it was a computer and a special printer that is needed for, to translate textbooks into braille for children and others that could utilize that. As I said upon the original adoption of it when we were on 1189 earlier, I was concerned and had asked questions about had they looked into seeing if there were dollars in-house, instead of just adding dollars to the budget for these small things is there dollars. In investigating that and looking at what budgets are out there in terms of Department of Education, both under Program 25 and in Program 402, I think it is, which deals with a School for the Blind as well, there was both Cash Fund dollars available and also some, what I would class as, vacancy savings in terms of the main administrative budget of the Department of Education. I had originally drafted an amendment to utilize, under Program 25, which has about a 7 million dollar budget, some of the vacancy savings and, in talking to the Department of Education, I...they felt that it would be better to utilize the dollars, the cash dollars, in the area of the School for the Blind that they have. Now, those are dollars that I know Appropriations took a few of those dollars to use them in that...in that...in their budget process, but there's still a lot of dollars and those dollars have grown significantly over the years. Now I've got to tell you the dollars are utilized for maintenance projects. They've been very fortunate the last three years that they didn't need much