

without exception they were killed. There was more of a concentrated effort made last summer. I know I had two or three meetings with the personnel Department of Education. I know that the Executive Branch, the Governor's office, had a number of meetings. As I understand from that LB 714 was introduced by the Education Committee. True to what has happened in the past no action was taken. It is going to be studied. One of the things that was discussed last summer, at least that I was involved in, was to do exactly this except by statute. Well I was a little hesitant to do it by statute. But the reason we put the intent language, and you understand that is not binding, we all understand that, but that was to more clearly say to the Department of Education, in the establishment of rules and regulations which affects disbursement as much if not more than the statute, that they need to make some revisions. One of the individuals who was concerned about this, from one of the school systems in the state, made the comment to me or asked about having this removed. I said, well I explained what I generally said in here. He said well, and he cited a particular type of handicap that they only have 1 instructor for some 60 or 70...it was 1 or 2, I think it was 1 for 60 or 70 individuals, and that was about as tight as it could be. But he said I know there are schools that have 1 instructor for 5 or 6, and that is really not necessary. I said, well you see that is exactly the reason the language is in there is to encourage the Department of Education to look at some of those rules and regulations, to more efficiently use the money. Secondly, and I've said before, I have had school board members that I know personally, who are good friends, who have indicated to me that they, in their own operation, are aware when they place some expenditures, particularly in the purchasing of equipment, as a part of their special education course when, in part, it is also to provide other services as well. It is within the rules, so they do it. They are reluctant, but they do it. They've mentioned to me that they think some of those things ought to be done. Thirdly, we have consistently encouraged the Department of Education to audit. I think, essentially, what their audits are now are more of a case of was the purchase made, was the individual hired. I'm not of the impression that the same extensive audit is...that the audit includes a review of how that equipment is used, if in fact it is used for special ed., if in fact it has a multiple of uses but primarily funded out of the special ed. reimbursement.