

continue in place. They are not going to be able to replace those contracts with choice, since choice is funded so much more from the state level than the local contracts. That way the flow of dollars continues the same as it has in the past from one district to another under a contract situation that already existed. It also talks about the nonresident tuition students. If students are attending a school district right now under nonresident tuition status, and they are paying tuition to go to that school district, it says that that school district could now say those students could be used as choice students, if they are paying students now, even though that school may be full to capacity for choice, for regular choice students. That may be a little bit confusing. Loran Schmit has kind of got this look on his face, he doesn't understand that. What happens is that some school districts are saying our school district is full, that they already are accepting students who are actually paying tuition to that school district. This says that those students could then become choice students and opt to use the choice program rather than paying tuition to that district because under the theory that those students are already being served by the district, so they are not adding anything above capacity that they already have, but they could deny other students who are not paying. They could deny them, but they couldn't deny the ones that are already attending there. It also says that if a student relocates to another district and his family moves, he can use choice to attend the school that he had been attending. This says that he will be able to do that. And the other thing that 207 deals with is the transportation issue. And right now, we provided last year that there would be some transportation aid available to students. If they qualified for free or reduced lunches, they could qualify for some transportation aid. This was in an effort to make the choice option open to all, rather than...and not be open just to those who can afford the transportation. So this would give them some money to do that. What the bill does this year is it says that that money can...last year we said that that money had to go directly to the parents. This year it says that the school district can actually receive the money, instead. If the parents agree to that, the school district can receive the money. Rather than the money having to go to the parents first and then to the school district, the school district can receive that money this time. With that, I would be happy to answer any questions. I think we do have an amendment. We just as well take those up.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Mr. Clerk.