

follows up on the topic vocational rehabilitation but takes a different turn on the issue. Senator Dierks was dealing with the cafeteria. What this issue deals with is the match that we have available to the State of Nebraska which is going unutilized by our state now for any number of years and the desire on my part to try to utilize that match and to fully maximize the availability of federal funds to improve access to vocational rehabilitation services for those citizens in our state that are developmentally disabled or mentally ill. If you recall, this body adopted language last session amending LB 1022 requiring the Department of Public Institutions, the local regional governing boards, to work together with the Division of Rehabilitation Services, which is part of the Department of Education, to develop a plan to maximize utilization of vocational rehabilitation services for those persons with developmental disabilities. That plan was to be completed by November 1 and submitted to the Appropriations Committee and the goal of the plan was to utilize that amount of money which we weren't budgeting for and funding in our state to maximize the match with the federal government. Well, the plan was developed and the goal of the plan was to utilize existing funds now in these vocational rehabilitation programs serving our developmentally disabled and the goal was there and the plan was there, but there hasn't been implementation. And now months after that plan was submitted, the Department of Public Institutions met with the Health and Human Services Committee to discuss a number of issues and we did ask what the status of the situation was on maximizing vocational rehabilitation funds and we were told that there is a desire on the part of the Department of Public Institutions to take the plan forward and utilize it, that they are finding resistance with the Department of Education, that they continue to feel that that's not what they want to do and they are resisting action in this area. And I'm back again and I've discussed this very briefly with Senator Moore, but this amendment again recognizes that we have existing funds going into vocational training programs for our developmentally disabled and mentally ill; that we want to have those regions and the Department of Public Institutions working with the Department of Education and using those existing funds and maximizing that match and not letting it lay on the table. The amount of money we're talking about here, as I understand it, for the '92-'93 fiscal year is about \$676,000 that we are below in general funding to maximize federal funds on vocational rehabilitation. That \$676,000 that we don't put into the budget would bring in over \$2 million in federal funds. So what I am suggesting here is let's use existing money, not