

May 21, 1991

LB 843

SENATOR WESELY: Let me pass over that for the moment. We're having another amendment drafted.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is passed over.

CLERK: Senator, I now have AM1951 with a note that you want to withdraw and substitute.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Okay, I want to substitute 1990 for that. Is that what you've got?

CLERK: Yes, sir. (Wesely amendment appears on page 2339 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WESELY: All right.

SPEAKER BAACK: Are there any objections? No objections, so ordered. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, this is the the voc rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation amendment that we talked about briefly yesterday. Again, I've just talked to Senator Moore just briefly, but it's my intent to try and work through a situation that allows for us to utilize existing funds now expended in the area of mental retardation services that currently total \$87 million, including all different funds, and use up to 284,000 of it next year and 402,000 of it the following year to match on a four to one match federal funds under this program. There was a discussion yesterday that dealt with the question of maintenance of effort. I do not see that as a legitimate issue. My intent is, once we start into funding this effort it will continue, that the funds are already being expended for vocational rehabilitation and services to people with mental retardation. This simply would allow us to use those funds to match and bring in more federal monies. There is no reason to have a concern or doubt that the level of funding will diminish in this area. What I cannot understand is why this Legislature would reject an opportunity to quadruple our investment that we're already making in vocational rehabilitation for those that have mental retardation. That's what we're doing at this point. We're missing the opportunity to match fully the monies available through voc rehab programs and I am suggesting that