

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Madam President, colleagues, LB 437, I had to refresh myself just a little bit here, was a bill that was introduced originally at the request of the Supreme Court. Again, I will address the bill and then the committee amendment. First, it transfers the cost of word processing to the state and currently the state pays the cost of the data processing by the county court while the counties pay for the word processing. Technological changes have kind of rendered this distinction meaningless as the same machines are used by the court and the employees are state employees. Secondly, the funding of data processing and word processing for probation support staff is transferred from the county to the state. The current funding scheme requires counties to make capital expenditures benefitting state operations and of state employees. As a result, it's unlikely that there will be, ever be significant automation for probation support. Thirdly, the bill concerns the cost of electronic research done by trial judges statewide. And the bill transfers the cost of that research from the counties to the state. Finally, it eliminates unnecessary and potentially controversial language concerning the funding of data processing security and personnel. The language was put into statute at the time of the merge of the muni and the county courts. The committee amendment is numbered 0789 and found on page, I can't, Pat, do you know what the page number is on that in the Journal?

CLERK: Well, Senator, it will be in last year's Journal but it will also be in the members' bill books so they can look in the bill books to see it.

SENATOR CHIZEK: And the amendment was adopted by the committee at the request of the court administrator. The amendment concerns the data processing and word processing hard and software capability by the court computer network. The committee amendment provides that maintenance costs will be borne by the Supreme Court. The further result is that the fiscal note is reduced. If you looked in the book, you would see that it was 238,000 initially and the amendment reduces that to about 22,000. The court administrator's office is drafting another amendment to be offered on Select which would further reduce the impact of the fiscal note. With that understanding, colleagues, I would ask that you adopt the committee amendment