

have the direct connection to Internet in each K-12 district or affiliated system by June 30 the year 2000. This statement is inserted into the lottery distribution statutes at the point where educational technology is described as an eligible category for grant funding. We did this to put an emphasis, another emphasis on the use of technology for schools. A new section creates the School Technology Fund. The fund would be administered by the State Board of Education for the purposes of implementing and developing Internet. Funding would come from payments of the School Weatherization Loan Funds. Currently the School Weatherization Fund sunsets in June, sunsets June 30, 1996. If this amendment moves, I will move to change the date to January 1, 1996. The amendment to LB 860 directs loan payments to the School Technology Fund instead of the Permanent School Fund. I'd like to visit with you concerning the fourth part, which is the School Weatherization Fund, which is the biggest change in the bill. This program was started in 1981 as a grant program. In 1950 to 1980 the severance funds went into the Permanent School Funds. There was a grant program beginning in '81, and in 1986 it was changed to a loan program. The loans are at 0 percent interest and most are payable over 14 years. The Energy Office spends about 200,000 per year to administer the loan program, this includes about \$170,000 for salaries and benefits for people to monitor the paperwork and visit sites to see that weatherization has been carried out. There's about 700,000 per year in loan repayments. There is approximately 3.5 million in the fund now, and about 10 million out in loans. The weatherization program sunsets on June 30, 1996 with loan payments. After that date it would move to the Permanent School Fund. It was funded by oil severance taxes until 1989 when the fund was capped. According to information we just received in the last couple of days the Permanent School Funds receive approximately \$2.5 million per year from the oil severance tax, which, as I said, goes into the Permanent School Funds. Oil severance taxes...235 loans have been made since '85, in 1989 there were 73 loans; in 1993 7 loans, 7 loans made in 1973 (sic). Usually if a school district asked for a loan they were granted the loan. The Program Evaluation Committee has undertaken and reviewed the School Weatherization Program. At the appropriate time we'll have...Senator Warner has agreed to speak to that. I would be happy to answer any questions and how much time do I have left, Madam President?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator, you have six minutes left.