

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

CLERK: Senator Robinson, AM1857? Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM1861. (See page 1891 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I hope you all will give some thoughtful consideration to this one. I tried to fashion an amendment that comes closer to what I perceive to be the will of the body. What this amendment does is basically this, right now in the Weatherization Fund there is somewhere in the neighborhood of 13 to 14 million dollars. I have passed out to you the amount of money showing the cash in that fund. It is presently \$4 million. What this amendment does is take that \$4 million, that's the money that is not being used for the weatherization programs currently, that's the balance that has been sitting there, takes that \$4 million, transfers it to the School Technology Fund, and then it says that it shall be used in the School Technology Fund as a loan program, and it will stay in the School Technology Fund, it will never come back to the Weatherization Fund. So the 8 to 9 million dollars that the Weatherization Fund has been loaning out to schools on a continuing basis, they would continue to use. The \$4 million that they are not using and which represents a rough balance they have not been using will be transferred over to the school technology program. Along with the \$7.5 million that is being transferred out of lottery funds for this program, that will add another \$4 million; that will bring up to about \$11 million what we are going to spend for school technology. Now I hope we have good controls on that, but I guess they don't need any extra people at the Department of Education to control it, so that's good so much money can be controlled so easily. But it is a big hunk of money. It is a big hunk of money, and I have some real questions about why we don't just put this money in the 1059 formula where it goes to the school districts that need it most and they make a decision on whether they want...whether they need new reading teachers or whether they need this new fancy computer equipment. Now why are we doing this in the first place? Why don't we just take the money and put it in the 1059 formula? I am not even sure, under Senator Robinson's formula, that the schools that need this most are going to get it because it has some controls in it but it doesn't have the kinds of controls in it that LB 1059