

note, Senator, you wanted to pull this one.

SENATOR HALL: It is withdrawn. The next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator McKenzie, 2032, again a note to withdraw.

SENATOR HALL: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator McKenzie, 2114. (AM2114 appears on page 2126 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator McKenzie, is that one you care to take up?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: You are recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, the amendment number is 2114 and I believe you will find it in the Journal on page 2126. This is an amendment that incorporates many of the concerns that people addressed during General File debate about the special education reform effort as well as concerns about the lid, the flat year. Let me briefly explain to you what's incorporated in this amendment and then I will allow Senator Bernard-Stevens to share some of the opening if he has some comments also, and then would answer any other questions you might have. Basically, what we were trying to address, first of all, you will find in a different section than was in the original bill after advancement from General and in the E & R amendments. We were dealing with the concern about what, in fact, is a special need and we struggled with trying to define special needs or unique needs so that we could limit this to the pool of children we have currently considered special education without expanding it to create new entitlements, for example, gifted education, English as a second language, or at risk. In this effort to hold costs down and in order to do a reform effort, we want to make clear that at this point we're talking about those children who have traditionally been considered special needs or children with handicaps. That change is in the amendment. It basically uses a reference to the section of statute that defines those 13 categories of disabilities and we believe it is the best effort we can make to find support services so that we don't have to identify a child who may have a mild learning disability in order to serve but