

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Mr. Clerk, there is an amendment to the amendment.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bohlke would move to amend the amendment with AM2156 that's found in the Journal on page 2130.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Bohlke, to open on your amendment to the McKenzie amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, and members, this amendment is one that addresses a concern that I had had since we first started on the bill and that was...and I think it was shared by Senator McKenzie, she's been supportive of this idea as I have communicated with her, that we are moving towards block grants but we certainly do not want to limit the solution to the problems only to block grants. And so what my amendment does is allows other individuals, agencies and groups to submit proposals to the Education Committee and the Special Education Accountability Commission by January 15th that explains how they would cut costs in special education. So to those people who have said all along that if they maybe do not like the idea of block grants, here's an opportunity for them to come forward with their ideas by January 15th to say what they would do in order to cut those costs. In making that suggestion, we also have to replace the phrase "block grants" with a new funding system and we also replace the term "student and family needs" with "educational needs", as the driving force for educational services for students with handicaps. The other thing the amendment does is it makes the Special Education Accountability Commission the lead agency. We had heard from a number of people, we name about four agencies in the bill, and we don't give anyone the leadership role, so it does that, it names them as the lead agency. And so, in summary again, what it really does is just to address the concern allowing all of those individuals or groups out there that may have an idea or suggestion that they want to bring forward to the Education Committee or to the Special Education Accountability Commission how they might cut costs in special education. It does not preclude the idea that there may be another idea out there. There may be something else out there or other suggestions even to improve the block grant proposals that will be coming. And so it is that that I offer the amendment and I have checked with Senator McKenzie and, Senator McKenzie, I will give you time, if