

killed, that isn't the Legislature dealing with it.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: But, Senator, the Education Committee chose a rather unusual way of dealing with the bill. I don't think they killed the bill because they didn't think there was any merit in the bill. They killed the bill because, one, the ongoing special education task force is meeting and wants to incorporate into its suggestions any program plans for the blind student. And, secondly, they chose to ask for the appropriations so that those school districts who are already doing it or wanting to would at least be facilitated by the Department of Education to do that. It's an unusual route that they took, but one that makes sense in light of the circumstances.

SENATOR BROWN: I guess I don't believe that...that it makes sense in light of the circumstances if we are going to remain committed to a biennial budget...budgeting process. And I will say that here were a number of very good, very well-meaning ideas that came to us, they came to us in the middle of the biennium. And we took very seriously the deficit requests were those things that absolutely could not be dealt with any other way, that we had to deal with either by virtue of decisions that we made last year and we felt were commitments, or because these things were true emergencies. And we were very tough about that, and I think we have to be if we're going to maintain a biennial budgeting process. So I would just say that, you know, we have to be very,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...very careful about how we make these determinations, that we can't do it just based on what are good ideas because there are...there are lots of good ideas out there, they just need to come through the normal process of the budget. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the idea, I guess I'm not...I'm not so much opposed to the idea, I'm just real curious if all, am concerned that has all possibilities been explored in this? We spend about \$1.6 million for the School for the Blind, and the number of students there has been decreasing, I think, and causing a per cost, per student cost to