

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2005

LB 425

that said the state could lease rooms in a church or some sectarian building if it was used exclusively for education purposes and nothing sectarian or religious was done there, that the state could contract to do to have different agencies and organizations provide services for what were described as handicapped children in those years, if nothing else is available, and if there is no religious instruction connected with that. All public school facilities otherwise must be owned by the state, and there's to be no sectarian or religious education, hymns, or anything else done in the public schools. These books in this program are a part of a stratagem to circumvent the constitution, and I think that it ought to come to an end. If you look on the gadget, you will see that, on page 19, you would strike--this is of the budget bill, the committee amendment--you would strike line 25 and insert "GENERAL FUND, \$866,104,661"; then "921,100,438." On page 20, you would strike line 1 and insert "PROGRAM TOTAL \$1,113,810,171"; then "1,176,677,207." In line 3, still on page 20, you would strike "\$866,524,661" and then insert "\$866,104,661." Then in line 6, still on page 20, you would strike "\$921,520,438" and insert in its place "\$921,100,438" and you would strike lines 25 through 27. Then on page 21, you would strike "line 1." All of this taken together has the effect of eliminating the funding for that textbook loan program as it is called. If you want to subtract \$921,100,438 from \$921,520,438, you will get an idea of the amount we're talking about. But to simplify it, if you want to subtract \$100,000 from \$520,000, you'll get the idea. I do not think this program is appropriate. There is not now and never has been really adequate funding for public education and the ramifications. There have been attempts earlier today to add money to programs that are provided by the public schools, and those attempts were unsuccessful. Perhaps if this amendment is adopted, it would free up some money that might make more viable an attempt to do some of those other things by the time we get to Select File. So that is what this amendment would do. I do not intend to withdraw it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on AM1431. Open for discussion, Senator Friend, followed by Senator Engel.