



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 506**

Hearing Date: February 13, 2007
Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Friend)

Title: Provide an alternative method of reimbursement for special education and related services

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - X Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Ashford

Proponents:

Senator Mike Friend
Dan Malone
Jeanne Malone
Shari L. Wells
Brent Hodgen
Jon Yetter
Robert Krist

Representing:

Introducer
Self
Self
Self
Self
Self
Self

Opponents:

Virgil Horne
John A. Bonaiuto
Mike Dulaney
Sara Farrand
Jay Sears

Representing:

Lincoln Public Schools
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska State Education Association

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 506 would establish a method of reimbursement for special education and related services by contract. A parent or guardian of a child with a disability could request that the state

insure a contract is issued from the funded service provider to the institution of the parent or guardian's choice in a amount equal to 70% of the reimbursable amount. The contract funds would be issued at the time of the child's transfer to any program providing special education and related services chosen by the parent or guardian which meets the requirements of the child's special education and related services needs in the opinion of the parent. If the choice is denied, the parent or guardian may seek external review of the decision to deny the application.

The Department would provide forms for the requests, which would include the name of the parent or guardian, the name and school district of residence of the child with a disability, the name of the service agency, the nature and projected cost of the special education and related services, and such other information as required by the department.

Section 79-1128 would be amended by adding the provision of contract funds as one method for school districts to provide required special education programs. The prohibition against the approval of sectarian services would be eliminated.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson