



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 506**

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**Chairperson:** Ron Raikes  
**Committee:** Education  
**Date of Hearing:** February 13, 2007

The following constitute the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

This legislation would provide an alternative means by which the State of Nebraska could meet its obligation to provide special education services: by providing contract funds to parents for programs or services being provided outside of the public school system.

Under the act, the state would be obliged to establish a method of reimbursement for special education and related services by contract for programs that meet the requirements of the Special Education Act.

At the request of a parent or guardian of a child eligible for services under the Act, the state would see that a contract was issued from the funded service provider to the institution of the parent's or guardian's choice that would provide the required services. The amount of the contract would be limited to seventy percent of the reimbursable amount for such services under the Act.

The contract funds would be issued under this legislation at the time of the child's transfer to the program chosen by the parent or guardian which, in his or her opinion, meets the requirements of the child's special education and related services needs. If the choice is denied, the parent or guardian may seek external review of the decision to deny the application.

While schools can access private services for children with special education needs, parents cannot do so without incurring substantial personal financial responsibility. This bill would level the playing field for parents of limited means seeking the best educational resources (and outcomes) for their children.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Mike Friend**