

this sign language and they feel very definitely that this should be done. The Department of Education could do this. Sometimes we hear that you can't get a specialist to go to western Nebraska because it's way out in the sticks and these professionals don't want to go, but we have three professionals who would like to go to Schotttsbluff and to live there and to provide this service and this is about what it would take. The fiscal impact, after taking, is around \$75,000 as I recall and I think it is not too much for this Legislature to do for those boys and girls in western Nebraska.

SPEAKER: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I rise to explain the committee action of LB 432. I think I can correctly state that the committee did not kill the bill on the basis that there is not a need for additional educational opportunity for the acoustically handicapped. The committee did take the position, however, that there was a need for this kind of assistance in all parts of the State, or at least the majority felt this way and in part then, to arrive at that answer, the committee did unanimously advance LB 403 which was recorded in today. That bill is so written so it's, not only concerns itself with the number of handicaps but it does also include the acoustically handicapped. It is written in such a way that locally it can also provide opportunity for those in special areas prior to the time that they become school age as well as during their normal school years which, there was the most frequent problem that, at least as far as the hearing, there was a great many students who were of school age but had no particular place that they could attend locally, but I think the majority of the committee felt that the proper action on the part of the State was to enact legislation that would be of concern for every child in the State where this--as well as other problems existed and that we would not have just two locations, one in the far west and one in the far east part of the State but that there be adequate facilities for all children acoustically as well as others wherever they might live and if you're familiar with 403, it provides the funding through local school districts up to the amount of their support--their per pupil cost and then the balance of the support comes from State aid, or not from State aid, from State funding, 90% of it. The other 10 was either as I recall, could be Federal funds or local funds, and it also was possible under the bill for numerous area school districts, educational service units or other appropriate learning locations to provide this kind of help for the acoustically handicapped.

SPEAKER: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, would Senator Warner yield to a question?

SPEAKER: Senator Warner, will you yield?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: What kind of a fiscal impact does this 403 carry? As you recall?

SENATOR WARNER: 403 as it is written, did have, I believe in the vicinity of \$500,000 the first year which is a complete survey of the entire State of the various handicaps that, that exist and then the funding which was anticipated after the bill would be fully implemented and of course, you understand, we're talking about more than just acoustically handicapped. I believe there's no there's around, not quite 2½ million. Now in some cases that 2½ million is present--some portions of it, is presently being provided in the \$400 per pupil. The counties would presently contribute to some of these programs so and so it's not, it should not be construed as that 2½ million is all new programs because a portion of it would not be.