

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Lewis, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I certainly will.

SENATOR MARVEL: It is my understanding that the purpose of 443 is simply to implement a Constitutional Amendment. I read on the fiscal note here that somebody estimates it is going to cost \$181 to \$200 thousand. Does that mean that the contracting with the private organizations is going to be more expensive than if public institutions do this?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No. Mr. Johnson from the fiscal office came up this morning and explained that note. There is no way to project actually how much money is going to be in contracting. But the relationship of paying is going to be the same. Actually since we're on the previous years payment it will be the year after next before this is reflected at all in terms of what we pay back. I specifically asked Mr. Johnson a question, was this going to cost more, and he said in our judgement it wouldn't under any circumstance that he could think of right now. I hope I'm quoting him correctly, if not I will correct that on the floor. But he said they had to develop a fiscal note in terms of what it would cost. But you take a student out of one program, you put him in another program, the program you take him out of, in many cases, could be less expensive than the one you put him into. You have one school providing a service. The purpose of contracting is maybe to get him over where it costs less because they're handling several of the same kind. I can give you four or five examples of where, when the contracting was stopped, it cost the local school district more money to provide the service than the contractual arrangement they had. But I will get a written report from Mr. Johnson of the staff and provide it to you on Select File, before it goes further to make sure that I am quoting him absolutely correctly.

SENATOR MARVEL: The only thing I think is that the private organizations that push this amendment, I hope they didn't put us in a position where actually they're going to make more money on this than if the school districts continued the way they were. That is the only reason I raise the point.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator, if I could respond to that I'd be the first in the line to help you do that. Of course, we have, as I said, made sure that we kept the control with the local board of education in the instigation of any contractual relationship.

SENATOR MARVEL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to advance the bill. Any further discussion? Any close by you, Senator Lewis?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I believe that is taken care of. Mr. Chairman, I just ask it be advanced.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays.