

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB 548

HEARING DATE: February 3, 1999

COMMITTEE ON: Health and Human Services

TITLE: (D. Pederson, Bohlke, Price, Suttle) Authorize medicaid outreach services agreements

ROLL CALL VOTE – FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

6 Yes Senators Jensen, Price, Byars, Suttle, Thompson, Tyson

No

Present, not voting

1 Absent Senator Dierks

PROPOSERS

Senator Don Pederson

John Bonaiuto

Alice A. Epstein

Al Inzerello

REPRESENTING

Principal Introducer

Nebraska Association of School Boards

Beatrice Public Schools

Westside Community School

OPPOSERS

REPRESENTING

NEUTRAL

Ric Compton

Carole Douglas

REPRESENTING

Nebraska Health & Human Services

Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department

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SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

LB 548 allows the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to enter into agreements with school districts and educational service units (ESUs) for the provision of "medicaid outreach services." LB 548, section 1, page 2, lines 1-3.

The bill requires the department to take all lawful actions to provide funding for such services. The money must be used to fund agreements between the department and school districts under the bill. The department is required to cooperate with school districts and ESUs to generate matching funds for medicaid outreach services with district and ESU approval. LB 548, section 2, page 2, lines 4-12.

The department must require audits, reports and plans as it deems necessary to supervise and monitor such agreements, account for all sources and expenditures of funds for all school districts and ESUs receiving funds, and adopt and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the act. LB 548, section 3, page 2, lines 13-20.

The department is required by December 1, 1999, to submit a report on the status of reimbursements for medicaid outreach services provided by school districts and ESUs to the Governor, and the Education and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature. LB 548, section 4, page 2, lines 21-26.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

The committee amendment rewrites sections 1 and 2 of the bill, inserts new sections and provides an operative date. Current law requires the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support (HHS F&S) and the Department of Education (DoE) to jointly certify the amount of federal medicaid funds paid to school districts under the Early Intervention Act for special education services for children ages 5 and older. The General Fund appropriation to the DoE for state special education aid is then decreased by that amount that would have been reimbursed to the school districts for such services through the General Fund. Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2515. The committee amendment excludes consideration of federal medicaid funds for "medicaid administrative outreach services" as provided in section 3 of the amendment. AM 0699, page 1, lines 12-13.

Section 2 of the committee amendment allows HHS F&S to contract with school districts and ESUs to provide medicaid outreach services. AM 0699, page 2, lines 2-5.

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Section 3 of the committee amendment requires HHS F&S to take all lawful actions to provide federal medicaid funds to reimburse school districts and ESUs for "allowable administrative costs expended in the delivery of outreach services to medicaid eligible children," and explicitly exempts such funding from the provisions of section 43-2515. AM 0699, page 2, lines 6-12. Such funding must supplement and not supplant state special education funding. AM 0699, page 2, lines 12-14. HHS F&S is required to cooperate with school districts and ESUs to generate such federal funds with district or ESU approval. AM 0699, page 2, lines 14-17.

The amendment provides an operative date of January 1, 2000.

The amendment also makes harmonizing changes and changes a reporting date from December 1, 1999 to February 1, 2000.

Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson