

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 23, 1999 LB 548

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next amendment is by Senator Don Pederson.
(AM1344, Legislative Journal page 1593.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Pederson, you're recognized to open
on your amendment.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, you will recall this is the bill that allows schools and ESUs of Nebraska to seek reimbursement from Medicaid funds for services that they are already providing to the students of this state. As I mentioned on General File, there may be as much as \$10 million available for this program, and there were some concerns that were expressed on the floor by Senator Byars due to some existing programs dealing with nurses and others providing for care currently. We didn't want to interfere with the current providers and so on the floor Senator Byars and I agreed to work together, between General File and now, to resolve these concerns. We have met extensively with Senator Byars' office, with representatives from Health and Human Services Finance Office and the Department of Education. This amendment represents the agreement that we have worked out. Basically, it is the original bill that...as to substance. The changes that have been made are primarily technical, and I'll briefly review those changes from the original bill. We moved the substantive part of this bill from Chapter 43, which dealt with infants and toddlers with disabilities, to Chapter 68, article 10, which deals with Medicaid. Since our bill deals with services for those ages 5 to 21, it's more appropriate to be under this section. This relocates...this relocation of the law resolved many of the conflicts and concerns that we had. If you'll recall, currently there's a program that's operated by Health and Human Services called MIPS, which is Medicaid...a Medicaid program, and we did not want to interfere with that program at all. And this program will access other funds that are available under Medicaid. So we changed some of the terminology in order to fully achieve that purpose; namely, we changed from Medicaid Administrative Outreach Services to Medicaid Administrative Activities, and this better defines what is reimbursable to the schools under this law. I know it sounds supertechnical, but this is a very technical aspect of law anyway. It is now clear that schools will not have to perform