

April 1, 1982

LB 761

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, what I am doing to 761 with this amendment, the other day you recall I tried to amend 761 in terms of reductions in special education. There was a verbal commitment on this floor of the fact that if indeed the deficit amounts to the amount that maybe we now anticipate that this body next January would appropriate the deficit to be returned to the schools who offer the programs for handicapped. So what I am doing is merely saying this. The special aid for 82-83 fiscal year be funded to the extent, in law through a supplementary appropriation for the 83 regular session. That is what this is merely putting intent into 761 to the fact we recognize there could be a deficit of possibly four million dollars. This is an assurance to the public schools until such times the rules and regulations have been diminished and their obligation is diminished with it that they will not have to take from the property tax additional sums of money to help fund the program mandated by this Legislature since 1973, because we state in legislation that we will meet 90% of the excess cost. As I told you the other day the way we now have appropriated money it only meets 75%, at least that is what my figures indicate of the excess costs, which means the public schools, from property tax, are going to have to support that and we should not allow that to happen. So this amendment merely says that next January, '83, if the deficit is that amount that we will meet the obligation as we have committed in law. I ask for the adoption of the amendment. There is no fiscal impact now but there could be in '83.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Koch amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Nichol voting yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Please vote. Please vote. Please vote so we don't have to have a Call of the House. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays Mr. President on the adoption of Senator Koch's amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch's amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch now has a second amendment. That is found on page 1488 of the Journal.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, several