

SENATOR BAACK: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, this is an amendment...we discussed the special education issue as we passed the option enrollment bill last year and we had contacted the U.S. Department of Education to find out how the things that we did with special education fit in with their rules and regulations. We got an answer back from them between General and Select File and they said that we still have to provide transportation for handicapped kids under the option enrollment program. What this amendment does is it says that the resident district that the student lives in will be responsible for the transportation. Those costs are reimbursed at a 90 percent rate by the state, but the resident district would still be in charge of those, would still file the papers and things as far as the reimbursement for transportation goes for handicapped kids. And the reason that we left it with the resident district, this was one of the suggestions that the U.S. Department made, was that you would, by leaving that cost with the resident district you would encourage them to offer those programs in their local district rather than trying to send them off to another district because they would be responsible for the transportation costs. So, with that, I would be glad to answer any questions if anybody has any.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any discussion? Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'd like to ask Senator Baack a question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: What is the funding now with this amendment? How does that affect the bill, Senator?

SENATOR BAACK: Well, this amendment only deals with special education transportation for special education. That's all that this amendment deals with, and...(interruption)

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: So this has nothing to with the funding of the actual bill then?

SENATOR BAACK: No, no, it does not. All this says is that the resident district that the student lives in will be responsible for the transportation and that transportation can be reimbursed at the 90 percent level which is for all handicapped kids in the state.