

the process for doing that. What happens is the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services who are co-lead agencies in this project jointly certified to the budget division the amount of money that comes in from the federal Medicaid dollars. The General Fund then reduces the appropriations to the Department of Ed for the amount that would have been reimbursed to the schools for their participation in these projects. And then what we need to do is have the general appropriations give to the Department of Social Services those dollars so that they can make the Medicaid match and so...because they are the ones that are administrating and paying for the referral and service coordination components. Now if that's...that's probably as clear as mud, but I would be more than happy to answer any questions about this. There is no new dollars here, nothing new, other than what we proposed last year. It is that we simply did not have clear language about how to transfer the funds so that we could do this project. With that, I would urge your support of this amendment and would be glad to entertain any questions.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President, and members, if Senator Rasmussen would yield to a question.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Rasmussen, do you yield?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Rasmussen, I know it's your intent with this amendment to simply put the transfer language in 701 that would decrease special ed, increase social services appropriation. My question to you is, I mean, this amendment changes that but you realize that for this to be an ongoing thing, we'll have to prepare a plan and next year we'll come back and make a policy decision on whether or not we want to continue doing this. This does it for this year and, arguably, before we continue doing it we have to come back and review and look at how we want to move forward in the whole area.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Right. I would...it would be my hope that we would continue this as a funding mechanism for the services that would not cost the state any additional dollars. However, I recognize that starting with a new biennium we would have to come back in and make a policy decision about doing that.