

September 29, 1992 LB 4

And so the committee was very reluctant, including myself, very much so, to advance the bill. But, at the time, we realized that there is the potential for savings for maximization of money to try to find ways to fund some of these programs prior to the date, the entitlement date as set, but there is nothing barring the ability to provide these services prior to that entitlement date and so we are encouraging the Department of Public Institutions to work with other agencies to find funding within their budget to maximize federal funding and other funding to try and accomplish at least some of the goals of this legislation. So that's what the committee amendment does. I would be happy to talk more about the bill when that time comes but I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Chairperson, members of the body, I rise in support of the committee amendments. As Senator Wesely said, it was a very, very difficult hearing to listen to the fact that we spent 21 years of special education and then we dump these kids into no man's land with no support. They don't ask for pity, they don't ask for a handout, they simply ask for the opportunity to have a job, to live independently and they know that they need some support to do that. Although I voted to move it out on the floor, I do not think I will vote for the bill because these people have been put on hold one too many times. If we're looking strictly at dollar amounts, I'm not sure that we're saving anything in the long run because these people are asking for the opportunity to be productive and to be taxpayers. The committee amendments I wholeheartedly support because what we're trying to say here is that we will not wait two or three years to do what we can do if the money becomes available by maximizing our existing resources as well as looking at ways to reorganize what we have now and allocate our resources in a different way in order to accomplish what needs to be done. I urge you to support these amendments.

SENATOR WARNER: Being no further lights, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close on the adoption of the committee amendments?

SENATOR WESELY: No, I just move their adoption.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely waives closing. The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 4. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all