

September 29, 1992 LB 3

even been out in Alliance, was where the original problem was, in Senator Wickersham's district, I heard him kind of give a reaction back there, so I thought I better give him a little credit, that these students were causing an undue burden on the education institutions within the communities where they resided. So a bill was passed to make the state pay the reasonable cost of education for those youngsters. Like many programs that we have had over the years, once a program was established, this one grew, both in the numbers of people applying...applic...who were qualifying under the original intention of the bill, plus a number of changes. Foster care homes were added to it. Senator Lynch and I, a couple of years ago, put another extension on this by making it applicable to within district placements as opposed to out of district placements. So the point, this is about a \$5 million a year a bill. And the philosophy behind LB 3 is these are students, we have a public education system in our state that is responsible for funding the cost of the education for those young people. Back when we passed the original ward of the court bill there was no big state aid to education program. There was much less of a special education program. We now have other mechanisms for placement of those students. That is the theory behind LB 3. LB 3 would end that payment. I would cease the closing and go to one of the amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Amendment, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Withem, I have two amendments from you. I understand the amendment that you wish to offer is AM62. (Withem amendment, AM62SS, can be found on pages 124-25 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, AM62 is the amendment that is on the desk of members. I would like to offer that amendment, at least momentarily.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes. My previous explanation about the program still standing, we heard at the hearing and through the course of the introduction of this measure that there are a number of mitigating circumstances, a number of people out there who feel that simply doing away with this program would not be good policy. Strangely enough, the number of people thinking this