

the way in which we would deal with foster homes, that for children that are in group homes, where they're educated in the public schools, that the state would continue to fund those, and for those in those institutions...and I keep wanting to say Uta Halee type of institutions, only because that's the facility that I spent the most time visiting with their representatives over the years, but those institutions where children are placed as wards of the court in those institutions and they receive ward of the court education funding for education that takes place on their site and that those would be funded and run through the traditional state aid to education formula, or excuse me, special education formula with an identification process. The reason that was appealing to me was a gut reaction that I had then and continue to have and that is that without a more thorough review of the educational needs of these youngsters, with an individual education plan for each one of those, and the fact that everybody knows that once identified as behaviorally disordered special education, the Department of Social Service will pay a hundred percent of their cost, that there's likely to be some placements that are taking place that maybe shouldn't be. And so I thought this was a good policy. One of the main policy questions that was brought up as a result of my publishing this amendment, and I'm glad I published it so I would hear that, is if it goes the other way, if it goes through the public schools, that the public schools would be very, very reluctant to ever place anybody in a Uta Halee type of school because they would be bearing the education...initial education expenses plus the 10 percent of excess cost and so maybe they would never come in. What I would like to see is a funding mechanism that somehow splits the difference, and this is nice to say on a policy level here that that's what we want, to split the difference and somehow a stricter level of review but not a review that is going to be eliminating kids that are needy. I realized, by the time I came down here today, that we just were not going to accomplish that but that we have, I think, grabbed ahold of a policy question that needs answered. We just don't have the information or the understanding or the ready agreement or the will to do it. So what I am recommending, Senator Wehrbein just pointed out to me, and he's right, a very fast track review of this process, that we direct, in essence, the Director of Social Services and the commissioner of education to appoint a joint commission. Unlike a lot of the things that I do when I recommend commissions where we sit down and agonize who ought to be on it and who shouldn't and what categories ought to be there, chose not to do this because of