

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 548

dollars for this program. A school district the size of Omaha could obtain in excess of three million dollars. So it's a very important bill to the schools and it is currently for services that the schools are already rendering, so there is a program operated presently by the schools with Health and Human Services. This program is called MIPS. It provides reimbursement for some of the services, but there are many other services that are being rendered by schools without reimbursement. LB 548 proposes to provide such reimbursement without interfering with the MIPS Program. The money received under LB 548 will go back to the schools and help reimburse them for these services. The best thing about it is it will not impact their budgets. This is a win-win situation. The cost to the state is virtually nothing. Health and Human Services is reimbursed for all of its services with 3 percent of the money recovered. This is a brief overview of the bill. Senator Jensen, Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, will present to you the committee amendments. I must advise you that I will then present to you another amendment that has been developed to meet the concerns of numerous parties interested in this matter and this amendment that I will present later will actually become the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Mr. Clerk, amendment to the bill? Senator Jensen, Health Committee amendments. (Standing Committee amendment AM0699 is found on page 964 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The issue of Medicaid reimbursement to schools for administrative outreach services is very complex. Many discussions have taken place on this issue, both inside and outside of the committee, and the committee amendment represents the outcome of some of those discussions, and further amendments to the committee amendment will be offered by Senator Pederson. Senator Pederson already has explained the bill and its underlying public policy. The committee amendment rewrites Sections 1 and 2 of the bill, inserts new sections, and provides an operative date. Current law, under the Early Intervention Act, requires the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support and the Department of Education to jointly certify the amounts of federal Medicaid funds paid to school