

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 548

districts for special education services to children ages five and older. The General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education for state special education aid is then decreased by that amount. The committee amendment exempts federal Medicaid funds received for Medicaid administrative outreach services from that currently existing offset provision in the law. Section 2 of the committee amendment allows Health and Human Services Finance and Support to contract with school districts and ESUs to provide Medicaid outreach services. Section 3 of the committee amendment requires HHS Finance and Support to take all lawful actions to protect or, excuse me, to provide federal Medicaid funds to reimburse school districts and ESUs for allowable administrative costs expended in the delivery of outreach services to Medicaid eligible children, and explicitly exempts such funding from the offset provisions of current law. Such funding must supplement, not supplant, state special education funding. Health and Human Services Finance and Support is required to cooperate with school districts and ESUs to generate such federal funds with district or ESU's approval. The amendment provides for an operative date of January 1, 2000. That's simply describes the committee amendment that is currently drafted. As I did mention, there is an amendment to the committee amendment offered by Senator Pederson which will be, really, a rewrite of the bill. That explains the committee amendment, Mr. President, and I would just ask for support of the amendment and the bill.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Senator Pederson, an amendment to the committee amendments? (AM1079 is found on page 1314 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. As Senator Jensen has said, this is...this can be a very technical thing and can be very complicated. I'd like to give just a brief history as I embody that in AM1079. LB 548, as proposed in AM1079, is designed to permit schools or ESUs access to federal medicaid funds. It does not require the expenditure of state or local dollars. It does not require the schools to provide new services. It does not put at risk funds currently used to access federal funds for service coordination for infants and toddlers with disabilities. The issue LB 548 is meant to address is accessing available federal funds to