

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 1243

department, they felt they needed a law change in order to do this. The amendment would allow preschool children to be eligible for support services provided under the flexible funding option of a school district's school age special education plan budget. The flexible funding option was passed by the Legislature in 1997, to allow school districts to use up to 5 percent of their special education dollars to provide preventative support services for students not identified or verified as having a disability, but who demonstrate a need for specifically designed assistance in order to benefit from the schools general education curriculum. So this change will allow those children who have not enrolled in school but have been...and have not been verified as special education but could benefit from services, to be able to take advantage of those services, and the district could use the money that it's allowed, the 5 percent, for this purpose. And that's the essence. It just changes one word and replaces it so that preschool children can be served using this fund. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. We are open for discussion on Thompson AM2455 to LB 1243. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I know the Education Committee knows this, but I do not know the answer, Senator Thompson. Does this add to the potential funding needs?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Is that a question, Senator Wehrbein? Would you yield, Senator Thompson?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes. What this allows is the 5 percent special education dollars that were set aside, in 1997 under the flexible funding option, to also serve students who...or not only students enrolled in school, but preschool students; it would be from that existing fund.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: May I ask Senator Bohlke that? Would that be...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yeah, yeah.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bohlke, would you yield to a