

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 9, 2000

LB 1243

address. It has to do with (one) contracts between districts when serving students who are not state wards and are in a group home. And the second example would be residency that applies to any number of situations of students who move to a school district. And they may be moving in with Aunt Bessie, because they were kicked out of their home, their parents are in prison, a girl may be pregnant, the parents may be transferred somewhere else. We even had a situation where a woman had been seeking a shelter and a school district actually said that the student had to return to the original residency, which would have been...to the original school district, which meant that they would have been in the situation of an abusive situation. And so we've had examples brought to the Education Committee of situations where school districts have been hesitant to accept certain students. This amendment states that school districts shall accept these students residing in their district and provide them with an education in those situations that I just explained. With regard to the cost of students in group homes, now these are nonstate wards but are in a group home, they must enter a contract. So they would enter a contract with the sending school district. If they cannot agree, the department...on the cost of that contract, the Department of Education decides the cost of the contract. The parents are required to notify the school district that they want them to enter into a contract and therefore they become aware that they have a student in their district. The other issue that at times, although very rarely, happens to be if a student happens to be homeless and wishes to enter into a school district, they would serve that student. And so in the examples that I gave where they would be kicked out of their home, or their parents are in prison, all of those other examples that I gave you, the school district would have that student, they would be required to take that student into their school and eventually then would begin to count that student in their student count. In the issue with a group home, they would get the money, the cost for serving that student by a contract with the sending school district. It's an issue and a policy issue that I think has needed to be addressed. When it was introduced there was no one who appeared in opposition. It's just that I think it addresses situations that have been presented in a number of school districts across the state, especially when parents have felt with their special education students very often there has been a hesitancy of the school