

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

April 16, 2003

LB 249

waiver requirement is eliminated for spectator admissions and transportation. The original bill called for that if you had students in a school that were going to another school to witness, or be spectators, if you will, at an athletic event, then the...for free and reduced lunch students, the transportation and admission fees would be covered. This has turned out to be, as you might imagine, difficult to administer. So we're simply backing away from that requirement. There are some other things in the committee amendment that are meant to clarify the specifics and the intent of our school fee policy. One of them is that for dual-credit courses, the course is offered for high school credit, and the student may choose to take the course for postsecondary credit and pay the tuition and fees for that postsecondary credit. Again, this is meant to be a clarification. The wording is consistent with the intent all along that if a course could be used for both high school and postsecondary credit, then the high school part would be provided free, but if a student elected to take the course for postsecondary credit and there was a charge associated with that, then the student could be charged that postsecondary fee. A second clarification is that money may only be collected from students as specifically authorized. And as you might guess, these are...these clarifications are in response to some of the things that appeared to be...or, were brought to the attention of the committee regarding actual implementation of a school policy. And the intent of the committee all along was to make it clear what it was that money...that fees...or, that students could be charged for, in terms of their attendance at a public school. A third point of clarification was that a school store need not be a physical presence. You could, for example, have order blanks and something like that that are not necessarily associated with a specific location in the school, but yet would allow students to buy items they might be interested in, class rings or something, so that money could be collected for that even though there is not physically present something you would call a school store. Finally, another clarification. Students may not be required to provide fees, equipment, or attire unless the specification, including dollar amounts for fees, are contained in the policy adopted by the school board. This is an effort to make it very clear that the intent of the Legislature was that this information about fees, amounts, detailed