

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

April 26, 2005 LB 114

various groups and organizations willing to foot the cost of these tests. It seems to me that the schools could form some kind of an alliance with these groups and let them know that the schools will notify them of the children whose families cannot afford these evaluations, and these groups would agree to absorb the cost. Do you think that would be possible?

SENATOR BYARS: I think in language in the past we've done something similar to this, Senator, where we have made information available to the families, appropriate information that every single family would get so that, yes, they would know that this is available and how to access it. And I don't think in that situation the schools would have any objection.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I would want the school to be the point of contact and not that the parents would be given a piece of paper that says, I'm poor, and take their child to an optometrist. I want the school to deal with the optometrist. In other words, there are 30 prekindergartners who are going to have to be processed in this manner, and they notify the optometrist or the ophthalmologist, whoever is going to send the people to do this evaluation, and the children just go and obtain the evaluation. Then how it's paid for is between the school and the optometrist, the ophthalmologist/organizations. Couldn't something like that be set up?

SENATOR BYARS: It...many times it's not...it would be a situation, first, in kindergarten roundup and the information stage when children are first enrolling for kindergarten or to go to school; that they receive information from the school relative to the requirement for the exam. It may be that they've already gone, but they need to go to the optometrist or the physician where they're going to get their physical before this identification is made. So I don't think we could put the burden on the school because that might not be the entry point. The entry point could be with the physician who's doing the physical.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Bourne is going to have an amendment that touches on the issue, and I guess we can more directly discuss it then. But I'm just trying to kind of