



2023 SENATE BILL 506

October 16, 2023 - Introduced by Senators LARSON, L. JOHNSON, SMITH, AGARD, ROYS, HESSELBEIN, SPREITZER and CARPENTER, cosponsored by Representatives SHELTON, J. ANDERSON, JOERS, HONG, C. ANDERSON, CLANCY, CONSIDINE, MYERS, VINING, SHANKLAND, BARE, MADISON, BALDEH, CABRERA, CONLEY, HAYWOOD, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, PALMERI, RATCLIFF, SINICKI, SNODGRASS and STUBBS. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 20.255 (2) (b) and 115.882 of the statutes; **relating to:** the
2 reimbursement rate for special education costs and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill changes the rate at which the state reimburses school boards, operators of independent charter schools, cooperative educational service agencies (CESAs), and county children with disabilities education boards (CCDEBs) for costs incurred to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities and for school age parents programs (eligible costs). Under current law, the state reimburses the full cost of special education for children in hospitals and convalescent homes for orthopedically disabled children. After those costs are paid, the state reimburses remaining eligible costs from the amount remaining in the appropriation account at a rate that distributes the full amount appropriated. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimates that, in the 2023-24 school year, the reimbursement rate will be 33.3 percent.

The bill changes the appropriation to a sum sufficient and provides that, beginning in the 2023-24 school year, after full payment of hospital and convalescent home costs, the remaining costs are reimbursed at 90 percent of eligible costs.

Currently, the Department of Public Instruction provides 1) special education aid to school districts, independent charter schools, CESAs, and CCDEBs; 2) aid to school districts, CESAs, and CCDEBs for providing physical or mental health treatment services to private school and tribal school pupils; and 3) aid for school age parents programs to school districts only.

