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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 1997-98

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Education...

#### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

#### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

\* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2012)







# State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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John T. Benson  
State Superintendent

Steven B. Dold  
Deputy State Superintendent

February 10, 1998

The Honorable Calvin Potter, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
100 N. Hamilton, Room 407  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Potter:

We have reviewed Senate Bill 403 and appreciate the sponsors' effort to alleviate the serious burden of districts paying the educational costs of students whose parents are not residents of the district and who reside in non-tax exempt foster or group homes. We have attempted to address this problem in previous budget requests by proposing that the state, from its tuition aid appropriation, pay the costs of students residing in these homes. In January, 1994, we completed a study of this issue (attached) and suggested other payment options, as required by Wisconsin Act 16.

We do have a concern with the proposal before you. Students in foster and group homes may be highly mobile and may reside in several districts in the course of their education. It is therefore possible that a student could live in a foster/group home in district A, then move to a home in district B. Under the bill, district B would then charge the cost to district A. However, if the student moves to district C, district C would charge tuition to district B. District B would have been absolved from the expense while the student resided within the district and be responsible for the cost after the student leaves.

While we favor state assumption of these costs (the state already pays the costs of similar students in tax-exempt foster or group homes), we know that would be very expensive. In our 1997-99 biennial budget, we proposed a Legislative Council study of this issue--which, due to the interaction of the state aid formulas, the revenue limits, and the mobility of the students, is highly complex. We believe the problem is very serious for those school districts that tend to attract for-profit foster/group homes and urge a legislative solution.

Thank you for your consideration of these ideas. If we can be of assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Faye Stark".

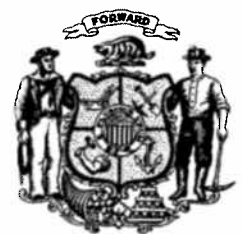
Faye J. Stark  
Assistant State Superintendent  
Division for Finance and Management

cc: Members, Assembly Education Committee

Attachment



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ALLIANCE**

4797 Hayes Road  
2nd Floor  
Madison, WI 53704  
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FAX (608) 242-1290

**James M. Lynch**  
Director of  
Government Relations

February 11, 1998

**An Alliance of:**

**Association of  
Wisconsin School  
Administrators**  
*Tim Laatsch*  
Executive Director

Senator Calvin Potter, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

**Wisconsin Association  
of School District  
Administrators**  
*Miles Turner*  
Executive Director

Dear Senator Potter:

**Wisconsin Association  
of School Business  
Officials**  
*Don Mrdjenovich*  
Executive Director

I am writing regarding Senate Bill 403 which relates to the payment of tuition at public school for pupils residing in for profit foster or group homes.

**Wisconsin Council for  
Administrators of  
Special Services**  
*Chuck Hastert*  
President

The bill seeks to address the current problem caused by districts having to pay the costs of educating students whose parents are not residents of the district and who reside in non-tax exempt foster or group homes. This problem is significant for districts that have for-profit foster or group homes within their boundaries.

This problem needs to be addressed however, concerns have been raised regarding SB 403. For example: a student who resides in a non-tax exempt foster home (parents do not reside) in one school district moves to another non-tax exempt foster home in another district. Is it fair to require a district which may already be burdened with providing educational services for students in such placements, to have to pay for the educational costs of a student whose parents never lived in that district?

In the past the Department of Public Instruction has proposed that the state, from its tuition aid appropriation, pay the costs of students residing in these homes. This approach would address this problem without raising the "robbing Peter to pay Paul" concerns that have been articulated in response to SB 403

If you have any questions regarding our comments on this issue please contact me at 242-1370.

Sincerely,

James M. Lynch  
Director of Government Relations

The following document was too large to scan into the committee record. The cover and table of contents, if available, have been scanned for your convenience.

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For further assistance, please contact the reference desk at (608) 266-0341 or email [lrb.reference@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:lrb.reference@legis.wisconsin.gov).

State of Wisconsin - Legislative Reference Bureau  
1 East Main Street, Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53703

Revised: 12/05/2012



# **Financing the Educational Costs of Children Residing In Foster and Group Homes Which are Not Exempt From Property Taxation**

**A Report to  
The Wisconsin Legislature**

**Jack Frye-Osier  
Division for Learning Support - Equity and Advocacy**

**Mary Jo Cleaver  
Division for Management and Budget**

**Judd Harmon  
Division for Learning Support - Equity and Advocacy**

**Bob Sainsbury  
Division for School Financial Resources and Management Services**



**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
John T. Benson, State Superintendent  
Madison, Wisconsin**



**This publication is available from:**

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