1997-98 SESSION COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on Education(SC-Ed)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

- Appointments ... Appt
- **

- Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule
- **

- Committee Hearings ... CH
- **

- Committee Reports ... CR
- **

- Executive Sessions ... ES
- **

- Hearing Records ... HR
- **

- Miscellaneous ... Misc
- 97hr_SC-Ed_Misc_pt22

- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP
- **

Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee on SB 120
April 9, 1997

By

Steve LaVallee, Chair, School Administrators Alliance
Director of Pupil Services, Adams Friendship Area School District

James M. Lynch
Director of
Government Relations

An Alliance of:

Association of
Wisconsin School
Administrators
Tim Laatsch
Executive Director

Wisconsin Association
of School District
Administrators
Miles Turner
Executive Director

Wisconsin Association
of School Business
Officials
Don Mrdjenovich
Executive Director

Wisconsin Council for
Administrators of
Special Services
Chuck Hasterl
President

I am here today to speak in support of SB 120 on behalf of the School Administrators Alliance.

School District Transfer-of-Service Requests
Students with multiple handicaps often require a number of special education services or have medical conditions that require expensive technology, nursing and other services. The cost of providing educational and medical services for a single student can exceed $30,000 - $50,000.

Prior to the 1995 Wisconsin Act 27, districts could request a one-time increase in the revenue caps for such high-cost services when students transferred into a new district during the school year (not budgeted for). Districts losing these students reduced their revenue limit based upon their ability to reduce costs that same year as a result of the student leaving. In addition, the district lost an FTE in the following year.

1995 Act 27, changed this provision so that if a student transferred from another Wisconsin school district the sending district would have to lower its revenue cap by an amount equal to or greater than the receiving district's transfer-of-service request.

The new law was based on the assumption that the cost reductions of the districts losing these high-needs children would be comparable to the increased costs of the district receiving these children. However, this has proven, in many instances, not to be the case.

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For example in 1995, two special needs students moved from Eau Claire to Rice Lake, one student was hearing impaired. Rice Lake had to create programs for the new students, which included hiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired student. Rice Lake notified Eau Claire that it would cost $63,000 to establish the necessary services. As a result of the new law, Eau Claire was forced to reduce it's revenue limit by $63,000. However, Eau Claire could not significantly reduce its costs as a result of these students leaving the district because other special needs students remained that required these services (e.g., could not reduce staff costs). Thus, the Eau Claire School District only realized slight reductions in the costs of supplies.

This example demonstrates that the cost reductions of the district losing a high needs student depend on whether there continues to be a need for that service to be offered in the district. If the need remains the cost reductions are minimal; If the need no longer exists the cost reductions are substantial.

The new law has required school districts to reduce their revenue limit in cases where they can not correspondingly reduce their costs, and undoubtedly has required other districts to reduce their revenue limit an amount less than their actual cost savings.

Senate Bill 120
SB 120 provides that if the responsibility for providing a service is transferred to a school district from another governmental unit, the school district's revenue limit is increased by the cost of providing the service; and if responsibility for providing a service is transferred from a school district to another governmental unit, the school district's revenue limit is decreased by the cost that the school district would have incurred to provide the service. The bill provides one fair, consistent, and far less adversarial process for all transfer of service requests.

If you have any questions regarding the SAA's strong support of SB 120 contact Jim Lynch at (608) 242-1370.

Vote Record

SB 120

Senate Committee on Education

Date: April 23 Grob

Moved by:

AB:

AB: _____ SB: _____

AJR: _____ SJR: _____

A: _____ SR: _____

Seconded by: Jauch

Clearinghouse Rule: _____

Appointment: _____

Other: _____

A/S Amdt: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____

A/S Sub Amdt: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

Be recommended for:

☐ Passage

☐ Introduction

☐ Adoption

☐ Rejection

☐ Indefinite Postponement

☐ Tabling

☐ Concurrence

☐ Nonconcurrence

☐ Confirmation

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Sen. Calvin Potter, Chair	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Robert Jauch	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Kevin Shibilski	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Richard Grobschmidt	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Alberta Darling	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Joanne Huelsman	☑	☐	☐	☐
Sen. Carol Buettner	☑	☐	☐	☐

Totals: _____ _____ _____ _____

☑ Motion Carried   ☐ Motion Failed