

March 2, 1976

I want to tell you that I personally appreciate it, particularly the wide range of subjects. It is just entirely delightful and I would hope that the bill would now have a chance to be moved across so that we could move to other priority bills where I know we will all have the same degree of interest.

PRESIDENT WHELAN PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: The motion is to advance, record your vote. Please vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 12 nays and 12 not voting.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. LB 761.

CLERK: Mr. President, we have one committee report. Your committee on Judiciary to whom was referred LB623 instructs me to report the same to General File as amended. Signed, Senator Luedtke.

Mr. President, LB761, (read).

PRESIDENT: Senator F. Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, LB761 is the result of the interim study of the Education Committee, we conducted six hearings across the state in the area of special education. We have conferred and visited with several hundred people in terms of the issues before us. We have provided three or four technical amendments in regard to the bill. We have included the definition of qualified teachers in regards to handicap education. We have included a position and statement on pre-school education that simply says that the state will not be responsible for reimbursement of those excess cost in regard to that particular area. The amendments are primarily those two and are cleanup in nature after that, I would ask for the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have a question or two for Senator Frank Lewis. I notice that on the fourth amendment under the standing committee amendments under LB761, which would provide for assistance to preschool children and make this an eligible item, is that correct?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No, let me restate that again. The committee was talked to about early intervention and preschool education. It is the position of the committee that although that is an admirable situation that we are going to have to get a handle on our responsibilities now in regard to special education involving those young people between 7-21. The committee statement says this. Local school districts or boards of education may and is hereby encouraged to establish special education programs for handicapped children below the age of five which it deems beneficial for the education of such children. Attendance of such programs shall be voluntary. Any school district which establishes programs pursuant to this section, shall not be eligible for reimbursement for excess cost for such programs as would otherwise be provided for in Section 43-648.