



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002
Committee Statement
LB 988

Hearing Date: January 30, 2002
Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Byars, Brown, Bruning, Burling, Cunningham, Jensen, Smith, Stuhr, Suttle, Erdman, Price, Maxwell)

Title: Change eligibility under the Early Intervention Act

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- X Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

6	Yes No Present, not voting	Senator Jensen, Byars, Suttle, Price, Cunningham and Erdman
1	Absent	Senator Maxwell

Proponents:

Senator Dennis Byars
 Judy Halstead
 Denise Wright
 Tammy Seamann
 Deborah Siekmann
 Don Anderson

Representing:

Introducer
 Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
 Educational Unit #13
 Self
 Self
 Nebraska Department of Education

Opponents:

Christine Peterson
 Jon Sterns

Representing:

Department of Health and Human Services
 Department of Health and Human Services

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes: The bill expands provisions relating to early childhood services for children with disabilities.

Section 43-2505 defines an “eligible infant or toddler with disabilities” for purposes of the Early Intervention Act (sections 43-2501 to 43-2516), as a child who needs early intervention services and who is two years of age or younger. An eligible child who turns three years of age during the school year remains eligible for that entire school year. LB 988 provides, in addition, that children age three up to age five may also be eligible for such services if funds are available

Eligible children who turn five years of age during the school year may remain eligible for that entire school year. School year has the same meaning as in section 79-1091.

Section 43-2507.01 provides an entitlement to no-cost services coordination and development of an individualized family service plan for eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities. LB 988 provides that children age three to age five may also be eligible for no-cost services coordination if funds are available. Eligible children who turn five years of age during the school year may be eligible for that entire school year.

Subsection (4) of section 43-2507.01 currently provides that the Early Intervention Act may not be construed to create new early intervention or family services or to establish an entitlement to such new services. LB 988 adds harmonizing language to provide an exception for services coordination for eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities under section 43-2505.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson