

March 2, 1973

(Start Belt #7)

yes, this has only to do with mental retardation.

SENATOR KELLY: I thank you.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, fellow members, this is merely a housekeeping bill and to vote against it would be probably like voting against motherhood.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President and members of the body, really what this particular bill does, the Attorney General has more or less made an opinion, especially out in western Nebraska, where we are from, that the educational service unit had to put up forty percent of both state and federal moneys combined, and this is what the problem has been. The office of mental retardation has offered to withhold the payments because of this, and unless this is corrected, they're not going to get any money like Senator Whitney said. The real intent of the law is that they must put up forty percent of the state money only, and not the federal money, and that's all this bill really does, is correct that Attorney General's opinion of it. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the bill? Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I renew my motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER: The question now is shall LB 3 - oh excuse me we have an amendment by Senator Carpenter, the Chair forgot.

CLERK: Amendment (read).

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, I was the one as I recall who amended the bill to turn the retarded school responsibility over to the schools, who in turn sublet (inaudible) of these educational units. We're in a complete state between not having any particular knowledge of how much money the Federal Government is going to give us in this field or any other field. It's my, as I recall the local share is put up entirely, generally by the county. The counties and many of them are up against the mill levy in the area in which they are restricted in so far as the mill levy is concerned. Now it seems to me in view of this circumstance, the least we can do, is cut the local share down to twenty five percent as a minimum, they can pay more if they so desire, but I don't presume they will, and that's the purpose of this to make it more practical in order to cover more children, do more things, by allowing the local to be a minimum of twenty five percent and the state seventy five percent upon that amount which the state furnishes. Now the state may have to furnish more money, and what's going to curtail this program because the lack of the availability of federal funds, that I can't answer and I don't think anybody else can, so I move for the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of this amendment. Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Well, I think you have to realize a lot of this is soft match anyway on the forty percent, it's not all hard match money. I don't think there is any particular reason to drop it below the forty percent, because they're using probably twenty to twenty two percent now in soft match. That's not going to help any, there, that's in kind match.