

the program be started, be funded from that source in the beginning because if you don't do it, if you start funding the program from state or local sources in the beginning, then the federal grant cannot be used for that purpose. So this bill is merely allowing the State Department of Education to use this federal grant to replace the money that would otherwise, under previous bills that we have passed, would otherwise be the responsibility of the local school district to pick up that 10% of the cost of the program for handicapped children under five years of age.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Senator Lamb, even the Department of Education has to admit that four hundred and some odd thousand dollars is more than pocket money and when you take that and give it to this group, who are we taking it away from? Some place somebody must be getting it now or does it just accumulate there, you know, just kind of a growing fund like a toadstool or something like, just kind of grows like that on its own?

SENATOR LAMB: It is my understanding, Senator Keyes, that this money is available for this purpose and if we don't use it for this purpose we just won't get it, period.

SENATOR KEYES: Oh, if we don't use it for this purpose then it saves the taxpayers that much money. Thank you. That is what I wanted to hear.

SENATOR LAMB: No, if I could differ with you, we would be obligated under present legislation to raise property taxes on a local level in the amount that we are talking about here, \$465,000, Senator Keyes. So, you have the choice here, either allow us to use the federal funds for this purpose or you will be asking your local property owners to dip down in their pockets and come up with the extra \$465,000 to fund this program which is presently mandated by state law.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: There we go, thank you. I would like to ask a couple of questions of Senator Lamb, just real brief. Now the 10% is in there, practically speaking, to try and make sure local school districts have some responsibility in educating these handicapped children so that they can't inflate costs and not have to worry about that cost to them in their own budget. Isn't that correct? Isn't that the philosophy...?

SENATOR LAMB: That is the theory, however, in actual practice there is very little control the board exercises in that direction. There are a limited number of programs available for these young children and so, as a matter of fact, they have almost over no control over the program.