

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this bill was introduced by the Education Committee on behalf, basically of the University system. As you well know the University provides to the public schools a considerable amount of technical work as it relates to the diagnosis and prescription programs for handicapped children, particularly those who have severe and profound handicaps. What happens in this type of program is that usually there is a deferred method of payment that places these four agencies and they are the Barkley Center, the Ruth Staples Laboratory, the Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institution and the N.P.I. Those are under the University. What the bill attempts to do is to eliminate some red tape as it relates to financial reimbursement. We are proposing here that once a school district has entered into a contract with those four agencies that the Department of Education would pay directly to those agencies rather than indirectly through the schools and then eventually to the agency. As you know these agencies operate on a cash fund which is generated from contracts. What this would do is to get the money more directly to the agencies so that they have a financial cash flow which is current. The other thing it would do is that it would allow the Department of Education to pay to those agencies in the same year that the service is provided. The way it is now it is always in a year in arrear at least and so this does place some financial handicaps upon these four agencies and I recommend that this body look favorably upon 772 and advance it to E & R. There were a couple of people in the hearing who had some concerns but I believe that we have resolved those concerns because the school district still must sign the contract and there would be no money paid without services that were not rendered so there is the check on that. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of the bill to E & R for review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting on the advancement of the bill. Have you all voted? 772. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the bill is advanced and we pass over 986 and take up 733. Okay, we have an amendment on the bill. We will have to pass over it temporarily and then we will come... Well I think we will take it up. Senator Koch, let's take up your... Since it is your amendment, there is a single amendment