

lines in the appeals procedure. The whole bill now has been compromised with the parent organizations that have been interested in this area. Everybody, as far as I know, is in agreement on the bill. It makes the appeals procedure more specific and gives notification to the parents of what they have to do at certain points in time if they want to reject a placement by a school district or by the Department of Education, and to that extent it is a benefit to those parents. On the other hand, it sets up definite requirements about when certain types of things, filing of petitions, have to be done, how it has to relate to a request for a placement from a parent, and sets out a sequence of events so that everybody is benefited because everybody knows how it has to happen. Everybody has a fair shot at the system and we can proceed with resolving conflicts in this particular area, not on a two or three year dispute basis but in a matter of months, hopefully, and hopefully even avoid some conflicts through the provision in the bill of requiring that the parents send to the school district a written request of what they want before they file suits so that they can sit down and negotiate that before a suit is filed. So the procedural cleanup, the clarification on the education program in the state institutions, and then the conceptual change with regard to state picking up payment for out of district...or for in district placements, those are the three parts to the bill. Now Senator Warner has a motion up on it and I guess I want to make my arguments right up front with Senator Warner. Senator Warner is of the opinion that there needs to be a cap on special education expenditures, and I will say right up front that I couldn't agree more. I believe that, too, and I know that there are people working on that. They are working on it both in terms of changing definitions and they are working on it in terms of maybe even a monetary cap, and there is another bill that is coming through the Legislature at some point in time, probably next year, that will try to comprehensively deal with a cap on special education expenditures, but I don't think it is fair to pick on this little bill and to pick on a little concept which is conceptually correct in adjusting our present system and holding it hostage for the purpose of getting a cap on all of this. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask for the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Motion on the desk.