

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to bracket LB 518 until the 1986 session.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler has indicated that I am perhaps picking on an insignificant bill. I don't necessarily view that because all significant problems that I have seen in this body are an accumulation of a series of smaller issues usually and I tend to view this in that same light, and I am not at all objecting to LB 518 per se, but what I am concerned about since the '82 session, '82, '83, '84, now '85, there have been repeated attempts by administrations, by some legislators, others, not necessarily to put a cap on special ed but at least to get some more definitive guidelines and some better control, as you will recall that special ed is retroactive payment. Payment has already been made and so every time any legislation is introduced it doesn't ever affect the current year's budget, it is to affect next year's budget if it is a cost containment feature, and always the argument is, well, we will look at it next year. But you have to look at it a year ahead for the simple reason it is cost reimbursement, not to pay for a service not yet provided, but it is has already been provided. I appreciate that there is perhaps only five individuals who would be immediately, at least are identified, that would be immediately affected. That makes it relatively insignificant but I am also aware is that the Governor had a bill introduced this session that is being held over. I don't how many discussions I have been in in the last four or five years with all aspects of special ed, of looking for ways to give better guidance for cost containment which everybody agrees ought to be done but never gets done, and inasmuch as this year's bill is being held over for study, it seems to me only appropriate because this is a part of the whole issue that this bill be held till next session as well so that the whole full gamut of services can be reasonably looked at at one time, and I have to also say I have some concern that while there are only five, I always recall the wards of the court when that was started in 1973 and it started out as \$40,000 and it is now \$4 million, and it may have been a good program but I am equally certain it was never envisioned to go from \$40,000 to \$4 million. And I have the same concern that this may be a step that would lead to the same kind of escalation and I