

other words, the decision the committee had before them was should we say that we are going to draw the line, here is where the verification line is going to be, and if a child doesn't meet those guidelines should we allow the local school district the option of going ahead and putting that child in special education anyhow, calling it special education, even though the school district is going to pay for it itself. Or should we, instead, say that if it doesn't meet the guidelines, it doesn't meet the guidelines, period, and you cannot put them in special education and call it special education even if you are going to pay for it yourself because the guidelines are the guidelines. Now the committee adopted the philosophy of saying that the guideline is the only guideline we are going to establish, and if a child doesn't meet that guideline, then you cannot call in special education. You can treat them in some other fashion. You can offer some other programs for them, but you don't call it special education. And I can tell you the philosophy behind it was that we don't want to create a mechanism where school district A will go ahead and perhaps decide to put a child in special education, even though they may not meet the guidelines, because of perhaps numerous reasons, and that would cause, we believed, tremendous pressure on school district B or other school districts to do the same thing, which might really not do what we were intending to do, to make certain that the guidelines were the same all over the state, services were provided the same all over the state, and to help hold down the total costs. So just so you understand that, and just so that it is part of the record, I wanted you to be aware of that philosophical decision that the committee had made, and you are making it with the advancement of LB 942. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Baack, did you wish to close?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I think that Senator Vickers makes a very good point about a change in the philosophy about this thing. That is what we really came up with in this study is we needed some consistency and we needed to have the whole state under the same type of guideline so that when we do reimburse, for these allowable excess costs, that we are reimbursing on a very equitable basis. I think that is what the bill is all about. With that, I'll urge you to advance the bill.