

May 7, 1971

CLERK: Read title.

LB 741

SENATOR STAHMER: The committee amendments were generally agreed upon by the sponsors of the bill and the educators, there was a redefinition of the term to use better wordage and it's completely agreed upon by all people interested in the bill. First of all I would move the adoption of the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion to adopt the committee amendment.

SENATOR STAHMER: I would like if I could to read some of the names of the people who appeared before the Education Committee for this bill: Dr. Francis Colgan of the State Department of Education, Mr. Vern Ellis of Milford, Nebraska, Mr. Richard Eisenhower of Hickman, Nebraska, Dr. Cheryl of Lincoln, Nebraska, Mrs. Jan Stern of Beatrice, there are other interested parents also. This bill pertains -- the purpose of this bill is to provide for the recognition of a group of physical difficulties that can and do afflict children and to include within our state statutes a provision for reimbursing state school boards for the added expenditure of funds necessary for the provision of programs to meet the needs of such children. Currently under our state statutes we have these special programs where the educational service units or the local school boards, have programs for the physically handicapped. Then there is another category for the EMR. There is another category for the trainable mentally retarded. This is a small group of children who have certain difficulties that are not IQ type. These are not low IQ type people. They do not have the regular physical handicap as a crippled child would, but they have certain motor difficulties in their nervous system such as dyslexia, where when a child sees words in a book they appear backwards to them. There are other certain very select ailments that a child might have that impedes their learning and they are not now covered by statutes. Personally I was amazed when I was approached by these people from around the state that there would be these types still not covered by our statutes. In a sense what it is doing it's taking care of the last section who do have learning difficulties but who are not educationally low in IQ or physically handicapped, but have these very special difficulties perhaps in their nervous system. The educators and the parents who have children with these problems, are very sincere about this bill. We're not talking a great deal of money. If I could go briefly over the fiscal analyst's note, I would read to you if I could for the fiscal year '71-72 it is estimated there will be 10 programs under the supervision of local schools and educational service units which will provide services for approximately 328 specific learning disability students.