

Embargded till  
Introduced

Senator Darling  
Representative Nygren

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Special Needs Scholarship Program

Motion:

Move to modify the Governor's recommendations as follows:

1. **Special Needs Scholarship Program -- Eliminate Prior Year Open Enrollment Requirement.** Delete current law requiring that for a pupil to be eligible to participate in the special needs scholarship program, the pupil must have applied to attend a non-resident school district under the open enrollment program and was denied. Specify that this change would first apply to applications to participate in the program in 2018-19. It is estimated that the change could increase the number of pupils participating in the program by 50 pupils in 2018-19. As a result, it is estimated that payments under the program would increase by \$621,400 GPR in 2018-19, which would be offset by a corresponding aid reduction to those pupils' school districts of residence and a revenue limit adjustment equal to the aid reduction.

2. **Special Needs Scholarship Program -- Eliminate Prior Year Public School Enrollment Requirement.** Delete current law requiring that for a pupil to be eligible to participate in the special needs scholarship program, the pupil must have been enrolled in a public school in Wisconsin for the entire school year immediately preceding the school year for which the pupil is applying for the program. Specify that this change would first apply to applications to participate in the program in 2018-19. It is estimated that the change could increase the number of pupils participating in the program by 200 pupils in 2018-19. As a result, it is estimated that payments under the program would increase by \$2,485,400 GPR, which would be offset by a corresponding aid reduction to those pupils' school districts of residence and a revenue limit adjustment equal to the aid reduction.

3. **Special Needs Scholarship Program -- Summer School Payment Equal to 5%.** Require DPI to provide summer school payments to a private school participating in the special needs scholarship program for a child who attends summer school and who participated in the scholarship program in the immediately preceding school term. Specify that if the pupil attended summer school for at least 15 days, the payment would be equal to 5% of the per pupil payment made for the child in the previous school year. If the pupil attended summer school for less than 15 days, the payment would be equal to 5% of the scholarship amount in the previous school year multiplied by the number of days the pupil received summer instruction divided by 15. Provide that a participating private school could receive summer school payments only if: (a) the private school offers no fewer than 19 days of instruction during the summer; and (b) each summer day of instruction has no fewer than 270 minutes of instruction. This provision would first apply to payments for pupils who attend summer school in the summer of 2018.

4. **Special Needs Scholarship Program -- Payment.** Specify that in the first year of a pupil's participation in the program, the payment amount would be equal to the payment amount under current law.

Specify that in the second year of a pupil's participation in the program and any future years, the payment would be the greater of the following: (a) the payment amount under current law; or (b) the actual costs incurred by the private school in the prior year to implement the child's most recent IEP or services plan, as modified by agreement between the private school and the child's parent, and related services agreed to by the private school and the child's parent that are not included in the child's IEP or services plan, if these costs are documented and submitted to DPI. Specify that a private school would have the option to submit a financial statement showing the actual costs incurred by the school to provide required services to each child with a disability at the end of each school year for which a private school receives scholarship payments for that child, but would not be required to do so. If submitted, require that the financial statement include documentation of each expense, and require DPI to provide the financial statement to the pupil's school district of residence. Specify that the cost of payments up to 150% of the per pupil payment in the current year would be funded through a reduction in the general aid that is otherwise paid to each pupil's school district of residence, offset for the district with an equal revenue limit adjustment. If the cost exceeds 150% of the per pupil amount, the private school would be reimbursed for 90% of the costs above that amount with state GPR.

Specify that if the private school does not submit a financial statement for a pupil participating in the special needs scholarship program in the previous school year, the payment amount would be equal to the payment under current law.

Specify that these provisions would first apply in the 2018-19 school year. (The first payments based on actual costs could be made in 2019-20.)

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Note:

It is estimated that these changes could increase the number of pupils participating in the program by 250 pupils in 2018-19. As a result, it is estimated that payments under the program would increase by \$3,106,800 GPR, which would be offset by a corresponding aid reduction to those pupils' school districts of residence and a revenue limit adjustment equal to the aid reduction.

Change to Bill:

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|---------------|------------------|
| GPR           | \$3,106,800      |
| Aid Reduction | <u>3,106,800</u> |
| Net GPR       | \$0              |