

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2665

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 1997

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2665.

Assembly Bill No. 2665 requires the Department of Education to pay to the Department of Human Services or the Juvenile Justice Commission, as appropriate, the difference between the amount of State aid otherwise payable and the amount of the actual cost of tuition for a pupil for whom the State has assumed fiscal responsibility because the pupil is classified as needing special education services and is in a private educational facility. The bill ensures that adequate funding of State-approved tuition will be provided for approximately 59 orphan children who have no school district of residence. Currently, the source of funding for tuition for these children does not cover the full cost of the tuition of the private educational facilities which these children attend.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1794 of 1997.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the legislative fiscal estimate on this bill and information provided by the Office of Education in the Department of Human Services, enactment of this bill would cost the State approximately \$1.1 million in the 1996-97 school year, for 59 children whose districts of residence are unknown and are placed in private educational facilities. The tuition costs for these children are approximately \$1.9 million in the 1996-97 school year. The Office of Education received only \$821,898 in State aid from the State Facilities Education Act program to cover the actual tuition costs.