

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As Introduced

**Authors:** Hamilton and others

**Subject:** Worthington School District; Lease of Residential Facilities

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### Overview

The Worthington school district has operated an educational program named Lakeview for a number of years. The Lakeview program serves students who are placed in a residential setting who have physical disabilities, neurological disabilities, or severe developmental disabilities such as autism and emotional behavior disorder (EBD). The majority of the students in the Lakeview program come from outside the Worthington school district.

The Lakeview program was formerly located in a building built in 1919 known as the Southwest Minnesota Sanitarium. The Lakeview program began serving students in 1959. In 1994, in response to the poor condition of the 1919 facility, the legislature appropriated \$2,070,000 of state bond proceeds to construct new facilities for the residential program. After the 1994 session, it was determined that the proposed new facilities would not meet human services licensing requirements. In 1995, the legislature reduced the bond proceeds to \$1,700,000 and limited the school district to constructing no more than three cottages having no more than four beds each, allowing the facilities to qualify as foster care facilities under the rules of the Department of Human Services.

This bill authorizes the Worthington school district to lease the residential facilities to a private entity to provide residential program services.

**Section**

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- 1**      **Residential program facilities; Worthington.** Authorizes independent school district No. 518, Worthington, to lease residential facilities constructed with state bond proceeds to a private business or organization to provide residential program services.