

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Committee amendments. Senator Baack, are you ready to handle the committee amendments? Senator Baack, on the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I just glanced at the committee amendments and they only do two things. The two things that they do is, first of all, they provide that a school district, if they accept option students, then if they have already accepted some of the option students then they would be able to give priority status to siblings of those students that they accepted as option students. They would be able to use that as a priority kind of status situation. And the other one is, is dealing with something that many of us have read about over the last few weeks in dealing with the double-choice situation, where we have had some school districts affiliating with other districts. In some cases maybe for tax purposes, they affiliate with one district and then decide to allow their children...then they choose the children to the school district where they really want them to go. And that is certainly not what we meant to do when we have affiliation and a choice law. What we meant is that they would affiliate with the district that they intended to send their students to, and so this addresses that. This puts a phase-in process in place, and it says that if you affiliate with a district, then you will not be allowed to use choice for the first year at all. The second year 5 percent of the students could choose to another district. The third year 10 percent could, and then the fourth year, then it would be wide open. It is the same exact phase-in that we had for the choice law for the State of Nebraska when we first put it in place. So this addresses the double-choice situation. It says that if you are going to affiliate with a district, we want you to be affiliating with a district where you want your pupils to attend school, not doing so only for tax purposes and then choosing your kids to another school. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions about the committee amendments if there are any.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator. Anyone wishing to speak? Mr. Clerk indicates we have an amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Baack would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, this is your AMO427 that is found on page 826...