

February 11, 1992 LB 922

know...I guess, Senator Beutler, I'll ask you a question first on the amendment, if I may. Senator Beutler, on your amendment let's assume for a minute that the Department of Education rejects...well, let's go one step further. Would there be any way on your amendment that there could be a mandated...the school district, in order to comply with the bill, would have to institute a course even though it may not be a mandated course?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Say that once more because I want to be sure I understand what you're saying.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, it will not change the number of instructional hours prescribed for elementary and high school students.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And the number of instructional hours dedicated to the existing curriculum. Okay, now if in the process a school is asked to or says by the Department of Education that they need to put in a program because it does not, they do not cover in their existing curriculum the areas prescribed by the bill, would your amendment preclude that district from having to put in a separate program, separate course even though they said it will not for graduation, it would not, but it would be a course that would have to be offered? Would this alleviate that situation?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I want to be careful how I answer that, not because I'm not trying to be straightforward with you, but because I'm not absolutely sure of the prerogatives of the Department of Education with regard to courses that are not prescribed.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Let me go one step further, and, Senator Chambers, maybe this will help explain one of the concerns I have. I do not have a concern with the bill. I plan on voting in favor of the bill at this point but one of the concerns I have in the concept is the following. Senator Chambers had a bill that I cosigned with, I think, Senator Withem and others on multicultural education to faculty members, that faculty members, particularly in high school, have to have or it was mandated on the original bill that they have so many hours of credit in their course work at the university in multicultural relations. And we listed specifically the areas