

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Yes.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...appointed by the Department of Education, it would be my expectation, as the Department of Education has also indicated to me, that that existing study group would be the study group that would carry out this plan.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Okay. So this bill would mandate...mandate just their work.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Okay. In the bill itself, along with the amendment here that I have some problems with, is a bill that's ordering a study, but yet comes up with the conclusion whether we're...whether...what words we're putting in there, may, or might, or shall close the School for the Deaf. The deaf community realizes that that school is costing way too much. But I caution us that we don't move so fast that we're jumping into something. I know that the money has been appropriated for a year, and that will be there. We need to listen to this study group. We need to have their input. And I don't think we need to be jumping to conclusions, even in the wording, about closing or might close the School for the Deaf. I think that's a conclusion. And I think we need to look carefully at that. This is a sensitive community, as much as we are sensitive. And the words we look at can make a difference. We need to, I think, be very cautious in how we look at this. The committee has some real neat people on it, or the study group, whichever one you want to call it. And I think that some good work may come from it. But as soon as we see a bunch of savings we can't just jump, we have to have something. We've got one of the best schools for the deaf in the whole country here in Nebraska. And I know it's expensive. But a good share of the graduates go on to get jobs and go on to higher education in the highest percentage of the schools for the deaf across the country. Please, people, look at the verbiage. And if you are in that community how would you see it, may, shall, might, whatever. I think we need to look at more of the...it will take some time. We're going to do it right, we've got a year's time and we're going to listen to what this committee has to say, because there's some hearing impaired people and people from the deaf community that are on this committee. I attended a meeting the other night and listened to a national speaker from the hearing