

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 12, 1999

LB 144

test that is unreliable, possibly, and we would be reporting to the public how our schools are doing on a test that may possibly be unreliable, and we'd be spending a great deal of money. In addition to that, they have to norm the test, if they don't have someone else do it. And that would work this way--say you're out there and you're going to do fourth grade reading. You would have to have your fourth grade reading teachers come in, they would have to go through the test, question by question. If there were five, four would agree that that's an appropriate test question, that would remain. And so you would have to do that on each test question. They anticipate that would take, in some districts, depending where they are, anywhere from a week, to ten days, very possibly two weeks. And through the Goals 2000 money, they are going to pay teacher time of \$100 of their per diem per day. The other amount of the per diem would be the obligation of the school districts, if they agree to offer it. But I can tell you, if we're telling teachers that they're going to come in during two weeks of their vacation time, they are certainly going to want the full per diem, or I don't think they're going to agree to do it, which means that districts then are going to have to pick up that balance of \$100. I'm not sure that districts realize that. I'm not sure that teachers now realize that they're going to be asked to come in and do all of this development and norming. To the credit for the department there are certain school districts, yes, where they know this, where they have been working in this direction. My concern is that there would be a large number who would not, and that's where I say the surprises start to come, and when that happens, I think I know where they're going to look and who they're going to be upset with. And then the other that we've talked about actually is the multiple tests and possibly the difficulty for the public to really understand, if they're interested with how their school district is doing compared to their neighboring school district or another school. We had filed option three here that was going to eliminate any mandate for a single, statewide test. It does not implement the Department of Education plan, and eliminates the Education Committee's amendment to the department plan that mandated NAPE. Instead, we were going to put in \$80,000 as an incentive to schools, if they would participate in NAPE. We had heard they didn't like the cost,...