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LB 144, 812

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...so we were going to provide that money. A plus could be with that, depending where you're coming from, that there be no assessment, a minus, depending where you're going to be coming from, that there be no assessment. A plus could be no mandate, a minus could be no mandate. The problem is also there has been a great deal of work by the department moving along, and they felt that, if we did this, we would really see very few schools proceed and go forward with the testing. I had asked the department if they had...they did not mandate the standards. I said, then it's very difficult for us to mandate the assessment. And I still believe that that's true. This morning, I have continued to have numbers of meetings with people...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke, you may continue, your light is on next.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. ...with numbers of people on what way to proceed. I realize that all of you are confused. I was confused. The more I found out about the details of the department plan, the more I was very leery of moving forward this session with something that, to me, still has a large number of questions, and I think as districts find out that they will have more questions. But I do feel that we are committed to an assessment, as the department is. And I do appreciate the work that they've done. And so what I bring to you is an amendment that would take away everything in LB 144 and allow us to take away the...reduce the appropriation that we had for the testing, and you have that sheet that's been passed out to you that would show it to be a savings of, I believe, about \$2.9 million. We would then put all the amendments that have been filed, on LB 144, on LB 812, which sits on General File. That's the original testing bill. Over the interim we would go out to school districts and say, here are all the options that I've just explained to you, you understand...and have the department, very much in detail, spelled out their plan and have an opportunity for those districts to come forward and say what they feel, how those are going to work. And then come back, next year, with what will be the final determination, I believe, after having more input from teachers and from school districts