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FLOOR DEBATE

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that I passed out, it does relate to Statute 79-23^c, which is part of the student option program. It states, for all purposes of all duties, entitlements, and rights established by law, option students shall be treated as resident students of the option school district. There are those who literally interpret that statute to mean that option students should have the right or entitlement of immediate eligibility in regard to extracurricular activities. They do have those rights in regards to academic. Participation in extracurricular activities is really a privilege and there have been numerous court cases across the country, including two from Nebraska, in which the courts have said that participation in athletics is a significant interest, but participation in athletics does not rise to the level of a constitutional protected entitlement or right. And it is important to continue to maintain the privilege status of being involved in extracurricular activities and not associating that with an entitlement or a right. That is one of the reasons that this bill is before you. Many administrators support the enrollment option program for academic and logistical purposes. However, permitting enrollment option students to be eligible immediately has the potential to further fuel the concepts of athletically motivated transfers, athletic recruitment, and school hopping. There needs to be some eligibility restrictions to minimize the transfers for the wrong reasons. Again, I want to emphasize that one of the reasons that we...I brought the bill was to emphasize the educational purposes and to take away the students optioning from district to district for merely athletic reasons. I did have also a note from one of the superintendents that said, thank you very much for introducing LB 249 and your support of the bill and the concept. It is my opinion, as well as many other school administrators, that it is imperative to have eligibility guidelines for option enrollment students, and I strongly support the positions in the bill and encourage your continued support on the issue. When I gave my opening today, I said this issue deals with student enrollment eligibility. I will be very happy, and I have talked to NSAA in regards to Senator Bromm's remark, transferring. That is another issue. That, we have nothing in statute in regards to the transfer issue. They have promised and said that they will convene a transfer committee early this summer to work on that issue...