

criteria in there and I want to remind you that the burden of freeholding rests with the parent who petitions to go from one system of education to another system. Senator Beutler and I are offering this amendment to place into the statutes where it says that there shall be a substantial difference in the curriculum offering. To me this has meaning and would help the State Board of Education and others who make a final determination to make the decision whether or not for the beneficial interests of the child that there is an educational offering in the other system which has greater benefits to the child in terms of his or her educational future. So that is the amendment and some of you probably visited with a lady out here in the rotunda yesterday and that lady is pretty well known to the Education Committee along with others. So Senator Beutler and I agreed, Senator Beutler really drafted the amendment and I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Beutler to speak to the issue.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let's talk a little bit about what we have done with 208, the freeholding bill. I think generally speaking in the Legislature we have reached the consensus now that a person ought not to be allowed to freehold into another district for tax reasons and 208 is a good bill because it virtually eliminates all transfers for tax reasons. I think we've all reached a consensus that there should be no transfers for frivolous educational reasons, that is no transfers because of personality conflicts between board members and individual parents and that type of thing and 208 as it presently reads is good in that it clearly does not allow for those kinds of transfers. Third, I think that the third consensus that we have reached in here and perhaps not as broad a consensus as the first two items but we've also agreed that in the best educational interests of the child you should be allowed to transfer from an approved school to an accredited school, looking at the accreditation system used by the State Department of Education. So those three things are contained in 208 right now. It is a good bill and I think we should pass it but I want to talk about what we are doing with it with this amendment. When 208 originally passed, not only could you look at differences in accreditation but you could look at differences in teaching staff, management, total curricula and the efficiency of the school system. You could look at all those things and see if there were any substantial differences and on the basis of those items, possibly transfer your children to a different school district. Then Senator Vickers and Remmers amended it to eliminate all those criteria except accreditation. Accreditation only would be the reason for which you could transfer. It seems to me that we're going a little too far back and the amendment would still allow transfers by accreditation because of accreditation differences.