

They do not have to just, all of the children in those programs, accept option. They can continue to contract and this allows that to continue. Section 10, it says that there will be no transportation provided for an option student. And this is where the parental commitment and the commitment of the family comes in, because they are going to have to provide the transportation for that student, unless, of course, by mutual agreement between them and the option district they can work out some kind of an agreement that the option district will provide them some transportation. But it's purely permissive language. They do not have to provide them any transportation. Transportation costs would be up to the parent or the guardian. The next one in subsection 3 there, on page 5, line 9, we insert the words "or the availability of appropriate special education programs". And what this does is this says that the...a school district may decline to accept students if their special ed program is full, or if they don't have the proper kind of special education program in their school they can decline to accept option students because we do not require them to set up a new program. So they can do that. That would be a decision made by the board, on the local level, as to whether or not they were going to do that. The other change in there is the April 1 deadline, that they have to...that they know for sure whether they are accepted into the new district. And the next one is that we have the resident school districts, on page 10, lines 7 and 8, it strikes some of the new matter and instead inserts "resident school districts may also provide special education through option districts". All this does is provide the language that would allow a school district to provide their special ed through an option district, because we have districts that contract now. This would allow those contracts to continue. I believe that that is all of the amendments. I'd be glad to try and answer any questions on this series of amendments, or if anyone has a particular problem with a certain one we can divide the question and talk about that. So I'm open for questions right now. Thanks.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before proceeding to discussion on the amendment, the Chair is pleased to announce that we have a number of guests under the north balcony. Would you gentlemen please stand as I call your name. Senator Bernard-Stevens has a guest, Kenneth Knolles from North Platte. Senator Stan Schellpeper has a guest from Schuyler, Jim Hespino; and visitors from District 15, in Fremont, guests of Lowell Johnson, Leonard Thurman, George Pascoe, and Dick Woita. Please be recognized by