

an advisory committee to help with the determination of what these indicators are, and this committee will develop a plan to improve the data system collection within our state. That is what 744 does. It is a relatively modest bill. It is asking the Department of Education to provide us and other policy makers in the state more data concerning the quality of education in our state, concerning the level of achievement of our young people. With that, if there are any questions, I would be happy to respond to them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion, Senators Moore, Labeledz, and Hartnett. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to ask Senator Withem a few questions if he would so yield.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Withem, on this sheet you passed out to us regarding comparing Nebraska to the other states, and what they do, how many of these things that we now...are not available, are not applicable to Nebraska would be applicable if we passed LB 77...744, excuse me?

SENATOR WITHEM: I cannot answer that question, Senator Moore. LB 744 provides a mechanism to create an accountability system. That accountability system will be created by the advisory committee and by the data collection center within the department. Hopefully, they would move toward answering a lot of these questions here, but whether specifically it will include student testing or whether it won't, and the reporting of those numbers, that is a policy decision that the Department of Education is currently attempting to make and will not be made by this particular bill.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, I guess my first concern is that maybe, that maybe we have the cart before the horse. In some ways I am wondering if we need to pass LB 337 by the Education Committee that requires a statewide test first. Otherwise, I don't know how you can compare data as there is no comparable data out there. And I guess my second question to you, and you can have the balance of my time to explain it, is will 744 eventually lead to some sort of statewide accountability measures, is that