

was the terminology. There were a number of other things in the bill the committee thought might have been a little controversial and needed extra work. Rather, and what we probably should have done was amend those other things out of the bill and advance this portion. We didn't do that. We indefinitely postponed the bill thinking that we ought to deal with this certificate process next year. In doing so, we did kill a portion of the bill that probably does need to pass in this session, this dealing with this teacher test, the timing of it versus when the results are back probably does need to pass this session. For that reason, I am supporting Senator Schimek's amendment here and would urge the body to also support it.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Hall, would you like to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the committee, I just would say that I support Senator Schimek's effort, because as Senator Withem stated, it is a portion of the bill that is noncontroversial and does need our attention this year, and I have no objection to it being added to LB 250.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Schimek, would you yield to a few questions on concerning your handout? Senator Schimek, I am just kind of curious, the PPST or the test, itself, that was taken, that is not...that test was organized and created and tested, if you wish, or graded by another entity, is that correct?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That is correct. The test comes from New Jersey.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, and the amount of time it takes is, in essence, say three months before a teacher can take the test and before they can get final officials and the certificate, they are saying a minimum of three months, is that a reasonable time period to you? That we take a test, it takes three days to go in the mail, they have their, whatever, week, two weeks to go through it, computerize tested, they send it back, takes three days, so, in essence, are we saying the Department of Education takes two months or more in order to process something that may be very important to a school