

What it does is...and I'll just go through the five bullet points here. The one change is that it...it makes note of the fact that the Accountability Commission should begin its work on the groundwork already laid by the School Restructuring Committee and maybe can prevail later on in the debate if needed for Senators, either Crosby or Bernard-Stevens or both who serve on that, to comment a little bit. This School Restructuring Committee has, as part of its work, tried to create a vision of what it is a school should be accomplishing for young people...what young people should..competence these young people should have. If that work is already done, that moves us a long way toward accomplishing what was to be phase I of this...of this recommendation. Phase II of the time period originally was a one year process where we were going to...the first year we were going to create the standards, the second year we were going to devise means of evaluating whether students meet those. This is going on on a national basis. There are national committees, state committees, all across the country attempting to come up with valid indicators of student achievement. And it is a more complicated process than can be expected to be accomplished rationally in a one year period. So this extends the time line considerably for that to happen. I think the intent by the Department of Education that'll be doing some staff work for this would be to take a subject matter area each year and devise assessment strategies for that. Third is it provides to the Department of Education working with teams of teachers and assessment experts to develop curriculum frameworks and assessment tools for each of the major subject area disciplines. And as I indicated before, that'll probably be a one year sort of...sort of time period. The fourth thing is it authorizes Nebraska to work with other states or a plains states consortium to share resources and responsibilities for developing assessment keyed to state standards. As I indicated, it's silly for Nebraska to do this entirely on its own when we have the Romer Commission on the national level, we have MCREL on the regional level, ECS, NCSL, lots of people are working on this. Finally, it deals with the legislators serving on the commission, how they'll be reimbursed under the Legislative Counsel as opposed to the other individuals. It'll be under state reimbursement guidelines. And also, I probably should indicate to you, it returns the bill to...closer to its original makeup of the composition of the committee. At the time, we talked about this in the Education Committee, we were maybe a little more concerned then about the whole separation of powers argument. This amendment returns the...the makeup of the