

January 22, 1992 LB 522

Bernard-Stevens and Senator Dierks, and I guess, Senator Bernard-Stevens, are you here? I am thinking about the school teacher or the applicant for a teaching position, for instance, who lives in Mullen, Nebraska, or who is wanting to move to Mullen, Nebraska to teach in the schools there. What would that person, what kind of process do you envision that this person would have to go through?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I guess Senator Dierks would be the best one to answer that as far as a teacher moving from one district into another district. I assume, maybe it's by a nod of the head, I assume that they would have to get a new background check. I would assume that. If that is not the case, that would be a problem, if I have already passed a check and I don't have to get another one when I move from district to district. What I sense, and, again, this is your time, Senator, but what I sense, one of the interesting difficulties with the implementation of the bill is that the further in western Nebraska you get or one gets, the less turnover there is in public schools. You do not have a lot of new employees. Most of the teachers there, you know, have been there sometimes seven years, sometimes 17 years, sometimes 25 or 30 years. And so the turnover rate is very small in some of your schools in western Nebraska. Therefore, if our real intent is to find people that were going to be potential criminals, this bill will not help in western Nebraska much at all because there is such little turnover.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Dierks, I guess I would like to ask you that question, and ask if you could explain, where would this teacher have to go to get the background check done?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Dierks, would you respond.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Can it be done by mail? You know, do they physically have to go somewhere to ask for this background check? What kind of process do they go through.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, Senator Schimek, the teacher would initiate the process, as I understand it, through the county sheriff or the highway patrol, and I guess then, I don't know if it stipulates whether they go in person or send a letter. I am not sure that that is a big issue but...