

direction of noneducators. So we are...we are changing the membership of the commission. Time line is being changed somewhat in that we are putting annual reports in the bill, and also phase 1 of the study, which is development of broad curriculum frameworks and standards for learner outcomes. We're expecting that to be completed by September 1, 1994, and the overall process completed by May 1, 1996. This may cause some concern because this is not going to be a short, fixed process, or an easy process. This does put feet to the fire a little more than the original nature of the bill, but I think that probably is needed to show some sense of urgency to get the work done, and not to just sit on it over the years. It makes stronger reference to the work already performed by the School Restructuring Commission that Senators Crosby and Bernard-Stevens are currently serving on, indicating that their framework of standards and assessments and other such things will be the beginning point of the...this new commission, that we won't put that report on the shelf and start our own new process. It indicates that it's the department's responsibility to provide staff support to this commission, that the commission will be the ones that will be doing the work, that they will report to the Legislature and to the Board of Education. I think it probably should also be pointed out that there is nothing self-executing about the work of the accountability commission, schools' accountability commission. It will necessitate some rule making authority by the Board of Education, State Board of Education before any of this goes into effect. One final thing that it does, we're creating a cash fund. This is something, a conversation I had with the Governor about this bill. This may be the sort of thing where we can find foundations, businesses, individuals who may want to contribute to the work of this commission through outright grants. We have a cash fund, and at this point there is not money in it, but it will allow us to seek funding from outside sources and people around the country that are interested in this accountability movement, and to expend those funds when and if they come in. That's the nature of the amendment. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to respond. If there's any time left, I would be happy to give it to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Bernard-Stevens, there is about four and a half minutes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. I will not need that much time. Senators have asked me, Senator