

February 11, 1992 LB 922

that needed to be covered. Then in the Education Committee we went one step further in saying that, no, no, no, we don't want to mandate a new course that had to be taught, what we would do is what Senator Chambers is attempting to do in this bill. What we would do is we would say that if any school, that be University of Nebraska, Chadron, Kearney that had teacher education programs, any school that could validate that they had the areas of concern on multicultural relations and they were taught in the curriculum, in various places in the curriculum, and that those students can verify that they have had those courses, that that would count as that student's credentials that they have had the multicultural relations information. Okay. What happened was almost exactly opposite of what was intended. What happened was the intent certainly was that there not have to be a mandated course, but the Department of Education when they started coming in and saying, the different schools came in and said here's what we teach and here's where we have this and here's where we teach that and here's where we have...that teach that and so on, it became so confused at some point that the Department of Education said I'm sorry, we're not going to count that, that doesn't count. We're not going to accept that as actually teaching the concepts that we want here. The only way to do that is and have your people certify that they are, or in this case...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...to keep your accreditation, if you don't have it in your curriculum either you've got to change it real quick or you've got to have a course. And so the University of Nebraska and others began adding another course of which then teachers that want to be teachers ended up having to take in many cases so they become certified or, in the case of this bill, to maintain the accreditation. My question is, if the Department of Education takes a similar viewpoint and they say, yes, we understand, this is where you say it is taught but we don't agree it's been taught, what process is in there, and maybe this is more for Senator Chambers, what process is in there to say that we won't have a department now dictating you don't have it, you needed a course, you didn't do the course, there goes your accreditation and causing us problems that we did not anticipate having in the first place. And I just want to have my concerns of that alleviated, if possible. I hope I have explained them halfway decently.