

February 11, 1992 LB 922

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...doing, describe what the goal is to be achieved and how they are moving toward it.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. Another part I have is lines 11 through 14. It says a school district which fails to provide or fails to provide evidence of multicultural education shall lose its accreditation status. I know that's a pretty severe penalty and I guess...who would actually determine that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Robinson, we have less than a minute and Senator Withem indicates his light is on so will you address some of those things, Senator Withem? He said he will.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Withem, you're next.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I've had a couple of people come up and ask questions similar to what Senator Robinson was asking and that's one of the reasons I put my light on and then I also have a suggestion maybe to those that have concerns and to Senator Chambers as to what our next steps maybe should be with the bill here. First of all, and Senator Robinson obviously understands this, I would assume, either that or he spent many years misplaced in the wrong profession. But the Department of Education, the Department of Education has accreditation responsibilities of school districts now. As I understand, very few of those accreditation standards are placed in statute and many of them are done through rule and regulation. So all this bill really does is add one more item that the Department of Education will consider as they are determining whether or not a school district is to be accredited. The...and as we do in education related matters quite frequently, this bill is drafted in a relatively general sense with the State Department of Education giving the authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out Sections 1 to 4 of this act. So the way it would operate is we pass the bill, the Department of Education would, hopefully, and I want to address that hopefully aspect here in just a second, read the bill, inspect the transcript of debate as far as what the legislative intent is and then establish specific rules and regulations as to what is expected of school districts. Senator Bernard-Stevens' questions I think raised some good questions, particularly bringing up the history of the multicultural teachers training legislation that was passed here a few years ago and what we