

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Clerk, members of the body, this amendment was a result of discussions held, correct me if I'm wrong, Senator Chambers, but with you, your staff, people from the Department of Education and committee counsel to the Education Committee. I was not in the room but there were discussions about the bill and how to improve it and maybe deal with some of the concerns that some people had about the bill. This amendment is on page 1168 of the Journal. There has been a summary sheet passed out, three basic changes. Number one, the current bill talks about multicultural education component into K-6 and another multicultural component in secondary schools, English and social studies courses. That has been merged into a single section which would talk about components into the curriculum areas in grades 12 through...K-12 so that it wouldn't have to be limited only to English and literature, English, literature and social studies courses. It can be in all segments of the curriculum. Secondly, there was a section of the bill requiring evidence to be submitted to the department by school districts that they were meeting this requirement. The explanation indicates that this evidence needs to be on an annual basis. That's more a clarification than anything. The explanation makes reference to the fact if evidence is not shown, the school district stands to lose its accreditation. That is already within the bill, that particular provision. This amendment does not change that. And finally there is reference to the survey that was to be taken of, measure student cultural awareness and sensitivity. The word "survey" is stricken and the language of assessment and authentic assessment system to assess so that there are other alternatives available for determining what students are thinking about these particular matters other than a strict survey. The amendments, I don't think, make terribly substantive changes in the bill. They do clarify a few things that are in here and I'd urge your support of these amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. Clerk, amendments on the desk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Robinson would move to amend Senator Withem's amendment. (Read Robinson amendment. See page 1210 of the Legislative Journal.)