

assumption is that the word "annually" makes a more burdensome requirement on school districts than it may otherwise be. Second point about the amendment is I think that you need to understand what the accreditation process is for school districts. What happens is every school district is on a seven-year evaluation system. The Department of Education currently requires certain things for a school district to become accredited. That is contained in Rule 10. Some of it is based on statutory requirements, other is based on rules and regulations by the Department of Education. Every school district that is accredited, and that now will be every public school system in the State of Nebraska, once every seven years a team will go out and they will go through with a fine-tooth comb everything that goes on in that school district and they will test what goes on in that school district against the current requirements for accreditation. It is theoretically possible if my home school district would have just gone through accreditation the year before this bill takes effect, if it's part of the accreditation process it may be seven years before we know whether that school district is doing anything or not doing anything. And what happens if they are not? Well, they don't automatically lose their accreditation if they're not meeting state accreditation standards. As I understand it and, Senator Robinson, you're probably more aware than I am because I assume any school district that you were an administrator in probably had problems with accreditation, no, I'm sorry, I'm just getting carried away here, just getting carried away here. But you're probably more aware of the exact process, but as I understand, if a school district has a gig, they call it, something that they don't meet, and that multicultural education might be one of those, that they then are put on probation and they have a year to correct it. It used to be that they had provisional accreditation or some standard along that line. It used to be that they would then drop down to become an approved school and then become a second year...finally after four years they might end up. We took that approved status away here a couple of years ago so they don't have that. At any rate, by making this annual, if the Legislature thinks this is important enough to pass a bill and put this in statute, and you're right, there aren't many other accreditation requirements in statute, this would be a...by striking this word "annually", it's theoretically possible. We won't know until into the next century practically whether school districts are meeting it or not, so that would be the reason for adding the word "annually" and my rationale for not being supportive. Thank you.