

senators about various programs that they have gotten legislatively enacted, placing requirements on the Department of Education to see that certain things are incorporated, and they were not. When the rules and regulations were to be drawn up, it became a delaying, foot-dragging exercise and some of those things have not to this day been done to the satisfaction of those who put forth these programs and members of the Legislature who supported it. With that having been said, I want to ask you a question, Senator Bernard-Stevens, to see if we are at least saying the same thing.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Under the bill, as it is drafted, the failure to meet the requirements of the law with reference to multicultural education would result in a failure to retain accreditation.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Under the bill as it is now amended, that is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: With your amendment, meeting the requirements of this bill would become, and I am using the word merely advisedly, would become merely a part of the accreditation process which is already in place?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That would be correct, of which they could still lose their accreditation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many, how many items does the department require to be met before accreditation is lost, or how many items can fail to be met before accreditation is lost under the current system?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That I do not know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This, if it is to be handled by rule and regulation, could be subject to waiver by the department in that accreditation process, couldn't it? Because there is nothing in the statute that makes it mandatory, as a part of accreditation. When you say that in your amendment, it would be a part of their accreditation process, they could by rule and regulation grant a waiver of this particular requirement for a given period of time for a school district to several, could they not, under the wording of your amendment?