

change the charter, would that be your understanding, as the introducer of this amendment?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator, you're absolutely correct.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay. With those questions and what's the saving grace to me, of course, is that they also have the discretion to take away the representation with the same standards that they granted. Certainly Central has undergone some difficult times. Senator Bernard-Stevens has spent a lot of time working in this area and with this issue and my comfort level is raised with this amendment. I can live with this and would support it. I think Central has recognized that the times are changing and that sometimes just doing your job takes away from your view of other things that may be going on in the world and that I think they've made great strides with this, realizing that there is more than just delivering of water; that there is ideas of representation, responsiveness to the state, to the Legislature and I think that Central ought to be commended for agreeing to this and recognizing that there is some additional representation needed. Although it's on a discretionary basis, it works both ways and I would support Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment at this point to suspend the rules and make this addition to the statutes. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Before going to the next speaker, Senator Cudaback has guests this morning, nine first through seventh grade students from District 65 school at Ravenna, Nebraska, and the teachers in the south balcony, if they'd please stand to be recognized. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I have a couple of questions I'd like to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, yield? Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I have just a couple of questions on the logistics of expanding the board. Recognizing we have a 12-member board at the present time with the four counties that are served by Central at this time, by expanding the board with 3, I assume with 3 new members from each of the new counties added in to the representation, you have now a board of 21 members. That is obviously going to be