

Bernard-Stevens had opened on one amendment. He has now withdrawn it and substituted another one. Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bernard-Stevens, did your opening on the previous amendment constitute your opening on this amendment also?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That would be correct.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay. So we have had the opening. It would now be appropriate to move to Senator Wehrbein. We will start the clock again on Senator Wehrbein starting with a new five minutes to discuss the Senator Bernard-Stevens amendment that is now before us.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to rise to oppose it and be clear with the body it is \$100,000 the first year for the study and not for two years. It's a one-time study, I understand that. When we first got the request for this in the letter, it really wasn't as clear as to what the amount of money...what the money was really going for in the study. The letter I have which I do not have here but I've heard verbally over the phone from downstairs from my office is that it was for...it could be a possibility of several things. If I understood Senator Bernard-Stevens, he's more focusing on the special ed issue; and that could well be part of the entire study. I simply am going to take the position that there is adequate money in the Department of Education to do this, that we don't particularly need to spend another \$100,000 to conduct this study. We've tried to be fair to the agencies. This one I understand the need for the study and I, too, would hope that it would be done and done as it should be correctly. However, with the...perhaps some things have happened in the last week or so that makes this more of an urgency that I'm not aware of. But I believe that there should be adequate funding in the department to do this and I'm going to oppose the additional \$100,000 of expense. If in fact you think that that would be important to do, I would urge then that we take some \$100,000 from somewhere else. And at this point, I'm not prepared to know where that should be. But I believe that we have adequate funding in Department of Education. I oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I don't rise to oppose the intent of Senator Bernard-Stevens'