

amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Withem would move to amend the Bohlke amendment. (Withem amendment, FA312, appears on page 2577 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. (Laughter.) This amendment is the other half of the amendment that I had originally had up there and filed, slightly altered. It..on page 2, line 10, after "each school district" it inserts the words "in lieu of any other programs authorized by law", and then it strikes language in line 12 "either within the district or through agreement with one or more other districts". I'm going to give Senator Wickersham some of my time to explain further the rationale for it. It addresses a concern though that somehow the new language, on page 2, lines 10 through 17, might have had a limiting impact or the definition of alternative education found on the top of page 2. The alternative...the language dealing with alternative education, on the top of line 2, defines a wider variety of things that can qualify as alternative educational experiences. There was no intention just to limit that by this definition under January 1, 1995, what each school district had to have in place. I believe this amendment makes it clear that there was no intention and does not, in fact, limit those alternatives and force them to be school-to-school. They still would have the broad range. By the way, I just have some notes here that Polly Feis, from the Department of Education, brought to my attention. There was some question about number of expulsions, in '93-94 school year, there were 209 expulsions reported to the Department of Education, grades 7 through 12, and I would assume that that would be the vast majority, I don't think there are very many elementary school expulsions that take place. No reference as to why they were expelled, but there were 209 students that were expelled out of a total school population of 141,000 in the State of Nebraska. So that gives you a sense of the number of students that we're talking about. It does not, however, answer the cost question, and I admitted previous to this we don't know what the cost data would be. By the way, I would yield time to Senator Wickersham, if I have any left, if he cares to use it to address this amendment.