

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Let me rephrase the question. Eventually, even though it might be 35 or 40 years, would all teachers eventually have this criminal background check?

SENATOR HILGERT: Let's see, apparently, apparently so, yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I think therein lies...thank you, Senator Hilgert. I think therein lies part of the problem I have with 754, because I don't think the people who, with the exception of Senator Bohlke as Chair of the committee, I don't think people understand their bill. And that's one of my main oppositions in the beginning is no one really understood the bill. It was simply a knee-jerk reaction because of some situations that have happened in Omaha and other places when people said, you know, we want to find all these people, we want to fingerprint these people. Senator Hilgert, to answer the question I asked you, none, that will never happen with your bill, the way the committee amendments are. Your bill only affects teachers that will be coming in from other states trying to get a new certificate. The 22,000 teachers that are right here in Nebraska, certified, will never be covered by your bill, never. So don't...let's don't stand here on the floor this morning and try to tell people, or try to indicate that this is the first step where we can get all teachers, because, Senator Hilgert, probably the next bill you'll come in with next year will be, well, we've got the outside people, but we don't have all the school boards doing the current people, so let's go ahead and fingerprint all teachers. That will be where we go next because you don't cover it with this bill. Though I have an amendment that will help you so that it will do what you want to have happen, I have an amendment that will ask that later on we'll talk about when you get a first issuance from out of state, or a renewal, so that eventually all teachers will be fingerprinted, because we want to find all of those unprofessional people that are out there. My heart tells me that I'm ashamed of this bill being in front of the Legislature, and maybe because of society in general. I'm ashamed that we have to feel that our children, of which I have two, one 11-year-old, in sixth grade, and one is in preschool and will be in kindergarten, all with teachers, all with teachers, I'm ashamed that we feel that society is such that we have to fingerprint people now for them to prove their innocence. I'm ashamed that we come forward with a bill and we have people