

February 5, 1996 LB 754

of Nebraska, on line 21 we have that the applicant shall be of sound mental and physical health and of good moral character, and I guess I was curious to find out will that change the standard from "good moral character" to "suitable character", or why was the language changed from "good moral character" to "suitable character"?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Witek, those are currently standards from the Department of Education, and they really aren't...I don't see any difference really.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay, so for the record, even though we're changing the language from "good moral character" to "suitable character", we are...the standard itself will not change, they will use the same criteria that they...that we already have in statute?

SENATOR BOHLKE: That's right, but...

SENATOR WITEK: All right, I just wanted to make that clear, because the language was different. I at first was curious because the...you changed it from "good moral character" to "suitable character". "Suitable" seems a little, although they're both probably subjective terms, maybe not as descriptive as the "good moral character", and I wanted to make sure that the standard itself would not be changed or weakened in any way, and I have your assurance that that's not the case, and it's on the record, and I appreciate that. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, I wanted to just make a statement about why don't...or will all teachers be undergoing this. Obviously not. My thought of the response to Senator Bernard-Stevens' question was that ultimately everyone will have it, because the teachers in Nebraska currently are subject to Nebraska background checks. And this just has...this just provides for individuals coming into the state of Nebraska from outside the state to submit their fingerprints so that we can access the national crime file to do more adequate, further, extensive background checks on individuals who are coming into the state. My thought was that eventually all educators would be going through either a Nebraska background check, or, if they come from outside the state, through this bill ultimately they will.