

important for people to know that we can and off...and many schools currently do criminal background checks instate, and that they can do that without even letting the teacher know that they're doing that. But as far as why the five years, there has...there was a survey done by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that more than 60 percent of the prisoners had been incarcerated in the past, and almost all of those prior confinements had been in prison or jail within five years of their current offense. And so I think that's an important factor to consider. And I think that, as I've said, we've tilted the table in the opposite direction with what we have right now, by not allowing us to access those records from out of state, when we can currently do a background check for those teachers instate. I wanted to make that clarification for you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam President, members of the body, I guess when the five years came up it came back to me in my former life as a school administrator, our superintendent, where I worked, in Bellevue, believed we should be on duty 24-hours a day. And so I'd get a call on a Saturday night, would I come and interview this gentleman that was trying to get his certificate (inaudible), it had lapsed for a period of time, about five years. He'd been in the business of woodworking. But he said, I had to get my certificate, not through the normal process, I had to get it from the Commissioner of Education. And, yes, he was in woodworking, in State Pen. (Laugh.) And they...they...that...you know, he was trying to get his certificate back. So I guess I, you know, don't kind of support your amendment, Bernard-Stevens, because I think we need this checkup longer than five years. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I want to clarify just a couple things. We are talking about first issuance of a certificate. So any teacher currently holding a certificate in the state of Nebraska who is going back to school for a counseling degree, or an administrative degree would have to go through the process when they asked for first issuance of that new certificate. However, when they recertify in the same category, that is not a first issuance, so they