

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Turned down?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, they can't, under current law they can't turn them down.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. Now your schools have asked...it's a problem with your schools?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: It's a problem in schools throughout the state when they state that they are not able to take option students, but the one exception where they have to, no matter what, even though they said no to everybody else, they have to take the sibling. That has happened throughout the state. And they're saying that we don't think that's quite fair. And that's the only thing it is is a policy fairness issue. And it's as simple as that really.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Now, you just told me the reason you don't receive any option, you have more students going out, opting out.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, this year under 1050 we would have netted, we would have netted minus, because we had more students going to the smaller schools, which is one of the things that small schools were afraid of, they thought all their kids would go to the large school. No, no, no, really it's going the other way. They netted out minus, so under 1050 they'll get, instead of \$1,300, they'd get, for every student that opted in, now they get zero, so they actually will lose dollars.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Where do they go, out to Sandhills High from....

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Well, in order to appease my small schools, they go to those small schools at Maxwell, Hershey, Sutherland, and Brady because they believe they have a better academic or smaller environment for their child, a better environment for their child.

SENATOR ROBINSON: How many option out students do you have?