

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 27, 1999 LB 144

off-the-shelf tests, are much less expensive than if we developed them by a state. And LB 1228, that Senator Tyson was talking about, requires that it would be a...I've got the wording here, but it would not be a state developed test, it would be off the shelf.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And that off the shelf, would that meet the requirements of what we want to be testing for?

SENATOR BOHLKE: There's a debate as far as if they do or not. The testing companies will tell you that they can come in and norm their test, Terra Nova, one of those, to meet our standards. The Department of Education and the commissioner and Buros, I believe, Institute...I know the commissioner and the Department of Education, I'll check and answer later on Buros, do not feel that...that you gain that much by having them do that, and that still you come to that ranking of school districts, which they do not think would have a positive impact.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. A follow-up question then regarding the National Assessment of Education Progress, NAEP, not NAPE, Senator Tyson. Once a student or a school district is selected to participate, and you're talking about 2,500 students here, well, first of all, even back step one...one step. Will...how do they choose, in the first place? I would assume they want a representative sampling of school districts. How is that decided? Do you know anything about that process at all?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Schimek, I cannot explain to you the details. I could just tell you that they do this every year, nationally, and it is, you know, a random sampling. But I know that's why you would have to have Lincoln and Omaha participating, so that you would get the right random sampling for our state.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And there are school districts now in Nebraska who are already using this, is that correct?

SENATOR BOHLKE: The...the private schools did, last year, and we did, I believe, when they started it for a long number of years, and last year I think was the first time that we, the public schools, did not.