

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 27, 1999 LB 144

SENATOR C. PETERSON: ...where...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk, an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend Senator Bohlke's amendment with AM1508. (AM1508, Legislative Journal page 1715.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to offer you what I really consider to be a very realistic kind of compromise on this issue and I think the compromise is explained in the language of the amendment, which is very short. It says: beginning in the year 2007-2008, eight or nine years off, the assessment program will consist of one test chosen by the board to be given in grades 4, 11...4, 8, and 11, which are the years they are currently intending to do it, which tests students on the standards adopted by the board in the areas of mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies, and to be reported to the board in a uniform format provided by the board. So, in short, the...the change here is to go back...to go to in the year 2007-2008, the school year, in that year to go to a one test system. All of the other provisions of the amendment are what the Department of Education says they intend to do and what was in the statute the previous year in somewhat different form. The only argument that is even close to valid in my opinion that I've heard against the one test system is simply that we may not be ready for it yet; that all of our standards may not be finalized enough yet; that there may not be a standardized test out there that's easily adoptable to all of our standards. I doubt that, but that may be a legitimate argument. So what I've done is to look at the progression chart that the Department of Education has put out with regard to the adoption of standards and it starts in the spring of 2000, next year, where reading and...the reading and writing standard will be tested in grades 4 and 8, and 70 percent of the standards in that area will be tested at that point in time. And then, as we move through the spring of 2001, 2002, '03, '04, '05, we start testing additional standards and a higher percentage of each standard, so by the spring of the year