

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

April 27, 1999 LB 144

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would waive.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: I'd yield my time to Senator Beutler, if he wants it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Byars, I thank you. I've explained the amendment. I hope it meets with people's approval, but I would like to hear what objections there are to it, if there are any. So I would abide further discussion. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President and members, in reaction to the amendment, I'm assuming that the department and the state board would sigh a sigh of relief with this, however, they would not change their position, I don't think, seven years from now if the same people were there in being opposed to one test, and the notes I've received, I mean that's...that's been the dialogue. And so, to say today that seven or eight years from now that we'll be doing one test, who would know? And so it might get you off the hook as far as making a decision, but I don't think that there'd be any guarantee, obviously, that that would happen. I actually introduced the bill for one test two years ago and, until March 26th, 16th, whenever this bill came out of committee, it was still in state statute that we would be doing an assessment. So if there's been no preparation for that, you know, I've...that would be a question for the department, because there was no guarantee that we would switch with this amendment. So, as far as preparing for that, I would say, you know, that...that would be questionable as why they weren't because we hadn't changed state statute up to this point. It really does come down to the philosophy that I tried to articulate in the beginning--one test versus multiple assessments. The other that it comes down to is why you're testing. Senator Beutler is where I was originally in saying that if we want to tell the public how our schools are doing we should have one common yardstick. The commissioner was, and I had many discussions in which he is strongly opposed to that idea and very much in favor, and the state board very much in