

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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LB 144

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'd withdraw that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Bohlke, your final amendment, AM1757. (AM1757, Legislative Journal pages 2038-2040.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to open on AM1757 to LB 144.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. What I'm going to attempt to do is to summarize for you those amendments that have just been withdrawn, to talk briefly about all the ideas that have been put before you, and a thumbnail sketch of the pluses and minuses, and then coming back, at the end of that, with a recommendation to you. If you recall, originally, LB 144, one thing that we had was one test that would be purchased from a national company. That one test would (a) probably be cheaper, on the plus side for some people. A testing company could come in and align their test to our standards. They have done that in other states, so they could do that. And then, instead of...they would either rank schools, or another option may be asking them, through the department, to report back either a high-performing average or below average performing school. So that would not have that ranking. The writing assessment is also included on that. The minus on doing one test statewide is the possibility of a ranking. Many do not think that that's something that we really want to do--rank our schools 1 through 600 and some. There's a problem with some testing companies, Wyoming just experienced a problem with a testing company that they had done a contract with. The questions on the test and the answers didn't match, and so they are in a quandary, having to go back and redo the test. And there has been a large amount of time, up to this point, from the department investing and going with a plan that they wish to propose to you. However, that was going a different way which was then from what already was in statute, which was one test in the fall of 2000. That was option one. Option two is what we discussed, I believe, the last time on this bill, and that was the idea brought to you by the Department of Education. The plus side that they said was that it would be multiple tests.