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LB 144

And so a district could choose from the standardized test they are given...giving now, and they could choose from a multiple test those...the test that they would like to add in order to test all the standards. The commissioners said that we would lead the nation, we are the only state that would be doing this, but that they thought that other states may actually model and follow along. It also included the writing assessment. The negative of this, first of all, I think a negative for all of you was it had very few details. And what we were saying is the Department of Education will come up with the details on how we implement this test. The problem is and some of the discussion in what those details turned out to be, I believe, would be a great surprise to some of the school districts. And when they get surprised, who are they going to be angry with? They're going to be angry with each one of you, if you voted for the bill, certainly the Education Committee, and probably the person's name who is on LB 144. And let me tell you some of the things that, in the discussions that I've had with the department, that I think school districts need to clearly understand. First of all, in order to have your own test, you have to develop your own test. You have the standardized test you're doing, let's just say you're doing the Iowa Basic, and that covers 48 percent of the standards, then you have to come up with a test that does the rest of the standards. You have to align or norm that test to make sure that it does that. There are a couple of ways you could do that. You could send it into Buros Company, and they could do that for you, and there may be, I imagine, a fairly significant cost. The way that the commissioner explained to me, and some others that might...another way may be that teachers will be asked to develop the test and then norm it. Now, (a) teachers, I believe, know very little about developing assessment. They know, when we give them the tests, they know how to test their kids. They know how to look at those tests and see how the children in their classroom are doing. But to develop assessment is far different. And so we would have to train the teachers in developing assessment. I think there could be a danger, and this is my personal opinion, but it was also raised by some other people, when we are asking teachers to do that, there could be the possibility that they would develop an unreliable test because they are not professional assessment people. We would then be giving the children in the classroom a