

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2003

LB 540

employees and programs that those employees provide for the students. But, I mean, does a last resort go to the extent that if you haven't eliminated everything else before you've eliminated that position? Is that...?

SENATOR BOURNE: I think, pretty much. Now, I want to remind you that "as a last resort" was language from the existing statute, except that it is...the original language said "It is the intent", and now the amendment would say "shall". But again, I think it is as a last resort. It's to remind those people setting the budgets that...of the reason that they're there, and that's to educate the kids. And some of these ancillary services and items don't necessarily go towards educating the kids. And I want them to make sure that the education is paramount.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Okay. I don't disagree with you that that is obviously in our existing statute. I would, however, think that that would be a little bit of a concern, now that we're changing the intent of the language that's there from a legislative intent to an actual mandate that should be carried out, and the question is the implementation of that. The last thing that I guess I'll ask you is it seems to me that your arguments in favor of this would lead me to believe that you have a bigger problem with the amount of money being spent on administration throughout the state than probably the decisions that are made actually by the school boards. Is that a fair...?

SENATOR BOURNE: I don't know if a "problem" is an accurate statement, and I don't want to quibble over words. But that is something that I've been concerned about for a number of years. We had a bills a couple of years ago, LB 305, and I did file an amendment on there that would require school years to reduce the number of administrators over a period of time. And I think there's other people in the body that have recognized that we are an administrator-heavy state. And I...if I could take just another second of your time, Senator Erdman, I just want to reiterate, because when I said this earlier I kind of muffed it a little bit. The state of Nebraska has two hundred and...or, excuse me, the state of Utah, which is similar in demographics to Nebraska, has 204.8 teachers for every administrator, whereas