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

April 26, 2005 LB 114

Journal pages 1304-1310.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. On with discussion of Education Committee amendments, Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Kruse and others. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I'd like to follow up a little bit on the discussion that Senator Bourne and Senator Byars were having. And, Senator Byars, I think this is an excellent idea, and let me tell you about my own personal experience years ago when my oldest son was getting ready to go to...well, actually before he was getting ready to go to school. He was about three years old. My husband and I decided that he needed to have his eyes tested because we didn't think that...well, we thought maybe he had a vision problem. Senator Byars, I'm sorry. I want to ask you a question. I'm trying to preface it a little, so I don't want you to miss what I'm saying. Years ago my eldest son, who was three years old at the time, was exhibiting what we thought were some problems with his vision, and we did take him to an optometrist. This was in Hastings. And we were told that, no problem, his sight was fine. And so we, depending on that, did not take this child back to have his vision tested before he got into school. And when he got into school, at some point in time, it was recommended to us by the teachers that we take him to have an eye exam. And that leads to several questions, one of which is, and you already answered it in the discussion with Senator Bourne, it has to be done six months before. So in this case, it has been done two, two and a half years before he was going to go to school, so that wouldn't count. He'd have to go back six months before. How early can something like this be diagnosed is what I want to know.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Byars.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Do you know?

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Schimek, for the question. No, I don't. I don't have the answer. I certainly can find out for you, and any assumption that I might make would be just an assumption. I would presume that maybe some vision problems