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

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SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I've looked forward to this debate, and I'm mostly going to be asking questions here today of various things, and I'll try to keep on point with Senator Bourne's amendment. frankly, I've had more questions all along, and I've never had an opportunity to really discuss this, and I felt this is a very important first step. Probably should have done it sooner, if possible, so we could understand the whole issue better. Senator Bourne, I'm going to try to stay specific on your amendment. Some of the questions you've answered, although I've noticed... I have not been able to understand how we're going to achieve the diversity -- let's use that term -- very clearly at this point, and you say there may be ways. So I'm going to jump ahead a little bit. How will we know when that will occur? The handout that was handed out telling about the demographic makeup of the Omaha schools, for example, and the Omaha area schools, what are we going to consider when we have success, or what will our goals be? Do you have any comment? And I'm asking for comments and generalities.

SENATOR BOURNE: Sure.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm not asking for specifics.

SENATOR BOURNE: No, I understand that, and I think you've hit the nail on the head. You and I don't know. But I would suggest that the learning community—and that is referring to the board to which all these school districts would report—I would expect that they would know, and that they are in the best position to know, and that's why they should have the authority to implement such a plan, whatever the plan may be.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So eventually it could be courts deciding that, for when it's adequate?

SENATOR BOURNE: That...frankly, that's what I'm trying to avoid, although the amendment does make very clear that any resident or member of a school district may institute legal