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

April 4, 2006 LB 1024

SENATOR SMITH: But if the learning community defines integration, they're still subject to being sued, as specifically pointed out in the amendment.

SENATOR BOURNE: As they are today, prior to the passage of this bill, this amendment, correct.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. But then would they have actually lesser cause for action than if the learning community is the one who determines that something is integrated, that an environment is integrated?

SENATOR BOURNE: Would they have a lesser cause of action if the learning community defines it one way?

SENATOR SMITH: You mentioned that the learning community would determine that something is integrated. I mean, they define integration; is that accurate?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, no, I don't...okay, it's...if you read it carefully, in addition to all other authority vested in the learning community, each learning community coordinating council shall assure that every school building in every school district in the learning community has a racially and socioeconomically diverse student population. There's no requirement that it says it has to be 50 percent, 10 percent. There's no requirement that says it can't reflect society. But there is in the second component of this amendment, it sets clearly out that an individual within that learning community has the ability to sue, and then if that happens, the learning community shall be considered one school district, for purposes of integration.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, so then that particular cause of action that was decided against the learning community would then, I guess, divest each learning community board of their powers?

SENATOR BOURNE: No, but it would vest the powers to integrate with the superboard. It wouldn't divest the power of the Omaha public board or the Westside school board or District 66, I should say, it wouldn't divest them of the power; the power to