

fact, done that. I'm not altogether clear as to what additional authority this bill gives but it seeks to encourage those activities so I am not opposed to that. But I am opposed to involving the State Department of Education in the approval of these different kinds of plans. I think that a school district will not enter into these kinds of plans if they could afford to do vocational education on their own so they are only going to do it if they cannot do it on their own. I think they ought to be able to look at the totality of their own school districts resources and decide where those resources are going to go so even if they could afford to do it on their own, if they choose to have a strong math and science program and to cooperate with somebody on vocational education, they ought to have that prerogative without involving the State Department of Education. Our phone calls to the State Department of Education indicated no strong need on their part to be involved and I am not sure altogether why their involvement is even desired much less necessary. So basically I am striking those provisions of the bill that involve the State Department of Education except to add back in one sentence that requires the school districts to inform the State Department of Education of any interdistrict cooperation acts or agreements so that at least they know what is going on in the state, but beyond that it would strike the State Department of Vocational Education's involvement in LB 207. I would ask your approval of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I consider this a friendly amendment and would urge the body's adoption of it. I might add that the reason for the language in there to start with was that I was concerned that if cooperative agreements were entered into, that the school who may have the students being educated in this type of a program but yet may not have the program at that school, be credited for their accreditation with having that type of a program and that was the reason I wanted the State Board of Education to be involved, to make certain that the State Board was aware that these students were, in fact, in this type of a program. Senator Beutler's concern is a valid one I believe and the language that he has come up with whereby the State Board of Education is to be apprised of where these programs are at will satisfy the concern that I had. Therefore, I urge the body's adoption of the amendment and the readvancement of the bill.