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LB 712, 1228

well the school system is doing. I think this is one of the most important parts of the bill. I think if you allow the Witek amendment you will have all sorts of different tests and it'll all disintegrate into a lot of money spent and no good gotten out of it. So I hope of all provisions of the bill that this one can be kept intact pretty much as it is. Thank you.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. First of all, if you read the language in this section in the original 1228, it tells the State Board of Education to implement a statewide testing program for students in these selective grades, which that is true, I can change that language in my amendment to say that it's a select grade. I'm sure Senator Bohike knew that that was my intent. And it tells them that the testing program shall consist of a test purchased from a recognized service with which tests students in the areas of math, reading, science, and social studies, plus one writing test, either developed within the state by educators with expertise in writing assessment or purchased as a part of a test. It says the purpose of the testing program are to evaluate whether or not students in a school system have acquired skills and knowledge which allow them to meet or exceed the standards established by Nebraska State Board to measure the progress of students in a school system toward meeting academic standards established by Nebraska State Board, provide information for analysis of adopted standards and consideration of new standards by Nebraska State Board. There is no test on the market at this time that does that. So it would leave me to assume, and I'm sure that's what they're going to do with this type of money is develop a test that looks at those Nebraska standards and develops a Nebraska test. Many other states have done it, that's why we have the information to tell us how expensive it is to do it, and that's why if you look at the fiscal note on (LB) 712 it'll tell you exactly how much it is to develop a test basing it on new standards that we have here in Nebraska without an underlying textbook program to go ahead and help with that. And what I'm suggesting is, we go ahead and keep the tests that we already have in place. All the school districts in this state presently have these tests, and they do them in these classes every single year. We're already paying