

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

January 20, 2000 LB 182

told that at this time there is only one other state in the nation that gives teachers the protection that this bill provides, and I have a question, Senator Beutler, if you could explain Section 5 a little bit more thoroughly, so I can better understand...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR STUHR: ...what protection there is.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Section 5, as you know, Senator, says that no sponsoring teacher shall be dismissed, demoted, reprimanded, or otherwise punished in any manner for the guidance that they give, so long as that guidance is in accordance with the school's publications code, or if the school chose not to have a publications code, so long as it was consistent with that portion of the bill that applies as the standards when a code, when they don't choose to have a code. So, in other words, it's just, I mean, I don't think it's anything radical at all. It's just saying to the teacher you are not going to be punished for following the school rules, whatever those rules are determined to be, and I think that's fair, that's just fairness to teachers.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay, thank you for that explanation. I know that this has been a problem in a number of schools. We have heard about instances where actually administrators have resigned over issues of a newspaper, or possibly school annuals, and they simply are to be the overseers of these particular publications, and I guess I really would hate to see this authority of the school districts, the school administrators, I still feel that they are responsible overall. I think it's fine for students to express themselves. I am not sure that we need this bill in order to do that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Kristensen, you've recognized for a motion.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. We will come, this bill will be back on the agenda, Senator Beutler, and I realize there are more speakers, and it's obvious that the bill