

committee for the amendments.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, first of all, LB 633, probably in order to explain the amendments I ought to briefly explain a little bit about the bill. LB 633 is the follow-up bill to LB 994 of last year and the intent is to make some clarifying changes in the language of 994 of last year and also to change some of the dates in order to give time to implement some of the reforms that this Legislature adopted with the passage of LB 994 of a year ago. The committee amendments add some of the things to that that was left out of the original bill. The first thing, and you should have on your desk a section by section explanation of LB 633 including a section by section explanation of the committee amendments on LB 633. And titled Section 2 is the first one of the committee amendments and what it does is it provides that the school year for kindergarten shall be 400 hours, I think it is 400 clock hours, 400 clock hours, and this is a harmonizing provision because of the 1080...1032 school year requirements. There are some problems with the 1032. When you divide that by two like most or like a lot of kindergarten students are, you come up with a greater number than the 400 clock hours and there was some difficulties in implementing that so we needed to amend that to include 400 clock hours for kindergarten as the school year. Number 3, it delays the new quality performance based accreditation standards until 1989 and it creates a pilot project to begin those standards, to begin to measure those standards in the interim, and also clarifies that the State Department may accredit joint cooperative programs. That is part of the bill, I guess. The committee amendments clarify the language on how those pilot projects would be implemented. Now the difficulty with the quality performance based accreditation standards are that Nebraska is really plowing new ground in this particular area as a measurement of our school systems. So we need to have some mechanisms in order to have pilot projects, apply pilot projects in order to really get a handle on exactly how we are going to implement that particular provision. The final part of the committee amendments deletes the Nebraska Council of Teacher Education as one of the entities responsible for assistance in producing the new testing and certification requirements. It also sets back the entry assistance program until July of '86 and the new certification requirements for administrators is put back to July of '89. And those are