

school? Is that correct?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: No, Senator, that's not correct. The way that you stated it is that if a person in their resident school district options into or, excuse me, goes into a private institution or parochial school, that's not an option. Anybody can do that at any time.

SENATOR BROMM: Right, right, right.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: So all of those students we're not even dealing with because technically they can...they still have an option left. What this amendment simply is dealing with is a very small number, we're talking less than ten I would assume, even less than that, people who actually choose an option district and they go to attend that district and then later shift into a Christian or private school. Okay? Under the law now, their option is done. They chose an option, they went and they went later to a Christian or a private school. And so they would have to at the completion, if it was a K-8 Christian school, for example, the law now says they have to go back to their home district. And what I'm trying to do is for those very few parents that they complete that district to still have the option that, yes, they can go back to the home district or they can go to the original option district that they chose. And quite honestly, Senator, what I'm trying to get away from is giving the students and parents the flexibility because many students, for example, going back to a small school may be somewhat ostracized in that resident district by people saying, oh, you were too good for our district, you had to go to another one and we force them back there. I want to give the parents some leeway that they can go back by law to their resident district or to the original option district and that's all the amendment does.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay, Senator. Do they have to complete whatever is offered at that Christian or private school?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENSON: If it's K-8, they have to finish that, they have to finish K-8. Now if they want to opt...if they don't want to finish the eighth grade, they want to finish the whole process that's optioned there, then their only option under this bill and the law we have now would be go back to the resident school district.