

ment for the A bill on Select File. I do not have it ready yet. The bill is drafted, automatically appropriates the money to the Postsecondary Education Commission established in LB 579. I expect to offer an amendment to appropriate that money to the Legislative Council which in turn then through the Executive Board can contract for those things that are appropriate for them to do on a contractual basis rather than appropriating \$30,000 to them to put somebody on a permanent basis that may not be required. The bill is not drafted that way. We've checked with everyone and it appears that we can use this approach and it's one incidentally that I think we might give thought to from time to time in other legislation, whether our shared responsibilities between the Legislature and the Executive Branch that can be done by contractual basis. With that explanation, Mr. President, I move that the A bill be advanced to \$30,000 and you also understand there will be an amendment on Select File.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: A question of Senator Warner if I might. Senator Warner, why wouldn't it be just as well to allow the agency to go before your Budget Committee which you're the chairman, to explain to you why they can't absorb it and then include it in the budget bill instead of with an A bill?

SENATOR WARNER: It's possible, I suppose Senator. It apparently hasn't occurred in the past. That's been one of my observations that nothing happens and we get caught with it a year later.

SENATOR DUIS: The only thing that concerns me and I know I'm in one of the similar situations with the very small amount and that is, I'm not positive they need it. But if they get it, they'll spend it.

SENATOR WARNER: I think the thing that I would seek would be accomplished, Senator Duis, if we follow this route in other instances that really spotlights the issue whether they can absorb it or whether they cannot. I recognize that some agencies may estimate a cost of a bill and inflate it some or substantially, in how they feel about the bill may affect how they estimate the cost of it. I think there is a need to really get it spotlighted one way or the other as to whether they can absorb it or whether they cannot. What I'm suggesting, there's no rule, this is done voluntarily.

SENATOR DUIS: I'm very sincere. I'm not doubting anyone except that I just feel as though these agencies at times overestimate in what their declaring these A bills and they get money that they don't use now. I don't know how severe the accounting is for that particular function they have in government and therefore I would much prefer if they went before your committee to prove exactly how much money they needed and what they were going to use it for because now this is \$30,000 but we don't know for sure, do we or have you got a pretty good handle on it?

SENATOR WARNER: On this one? No, this one the original request was for \$42,000 and I'm sure it can be done for less than that.