

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Warner, maybe I missed something here, but I really don't understand the purpose of this bill. It evidently deals with a few agencies. Could you explain what the purpose of LB 537? Why do we approach it in this manner?

SENATOR WARNER: Again, Senator Lamb, you will recall that there have been Attorney General's opinions, there is a pending court case between the University Board of Regents and the Legislature objecting to some of the directive language that is contained in the appropriation bill, itself. Traditionally in recent years, the Legislature has given direction as a policy matter to various agencies on the use of appropriated funds and there is some question as to whether or not we can add this kind of language in an appropriation bill. This concept was essentially suggested by Senator Bereuter and he may like to comment on it further but we were looking for an effort or method whereby the Legislature, as a policy matter, can direct agencies in the use of the funds that are appropriated, and in the event that we could not do it in the appropriation bill, itself, for there was an Attorney General's opinion questioning that procedure, that this would take the place of using the appropriation bill itself. So the purpose, to be specific to your question, is to provide the Legislature the opportunity to direct certain activities by an agency but not using the appropriation bill because it may have a questionable constitutionality.

SENATOR LAMB: Okay, one more question, is there any problem with having more than one subject in a bill, in this bill?

SENATOR WARNER: Not to my knowledge. Were we to propose amendments to substantive law that now exists in the intent language, that could not be done. We have had numerous, well, visits with the Attorney General's office since the beginning of the year as to the possibility of what we are proposing here, and as I understand it, the accompanying legislation with an appropriation giving direction as we proposed here probably is okay. What we could not do was amend substantive law and mix in two or three subjects, but this is only a directive to the agencies on the use of the funds that are appropriated. Each of the intent bills do coincide with the agencies that are in the companion appropriation bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, are there any other lights on?

PRESIDENT: No.

SENATOR BEREUTER: I will waive then and let Senator Warner close.

PRESIDENT: Do you have a closing statement? The question is the movement of the bill. Record your vote. Record.