

April 2, 1980

LB 824

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendments are adopted.
Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you. I will try to be very brief. As we all know several years ago there was legislation affecting community colleges which provided a sunset provision upon the mills which they levy. The Education Committee conducted a comprehensive study of the community colleges and particularly developed an assessment and an inventory of all buildings presently being used. Probably one of the few times that state colleges, and I am using community colleges in this vein, has ever put together an inventory of all their buildings and I have to commend them for it because they were very candid and very accurate in what they presented to the committee. Now what we have done in LB 824 is, first, the money that we acquire is used to retire the bonds which were accumulated by the various areas through junior colleges and other kinds of buildings that were under a bonded indebtedness. So it does provide a new language that these bonds will be paid according to their terms and the last bond as far as we know is to be paid in 1989 and that would be Central Community College area. Secondly, the monies from the fund will be used for renovation and maintenance and that is one of the amendments we just adopted and here in the bill we have used LB 309 to some extent of the '77 session, the definitions along with the existing language as it pertains to the community colleges. The third aspect of the bill states very succinctly that the monies will be used for general obligation bonds issued by a vote of the people and there are none of these at the present time and the fourth thing the bill does in its entirety is the monies will be used for new construction and improvements to existing structures and it is pay as you go. So very briefly what LB 824 states to us is that these monies which you acquire through your millages, and it will remain the same, will be used to pay per capita improvements and bonded indebtedness and that is the exact way it is going to be done. Those are the priorities which are established in the bill. Senator Cullan and Senator Dworak have an amendment and we spent considerable time working with community colleges and other interested parties and they will offer this amendment and I will accept the amendment as a friendly amendment and so will the community colleges, therefore, I would hope that when they offer their amendment that there would not be a great deal of debate because I think it meets generally with the satisfaction of many members on this floor as well as the Board of Governors and others who are responsible for the conduct of the community college. That, Mr. Chairman, is a brief remark on what LB 824 does. There is