

also...probably a very, very key thing that these amendments do is that it is a significant impact on the fiscal note. They limit participation in this institution to 200 rising seniors, rising senior being those who have, I believe, completed their junior year in high school and are prepared to enter their senior year. And also indicates that the academy will be held at any public, private institution of higher education. The intent of the bill is to establish an academy. It is called the Unicameral Scholars Academy which will be an institution held every summer. It will draw from the student body of the State of Nebraska the 200 students who the advisory board screens and feels are the most capable, most gifted students within our state. The intent of the bill...and Senator McFarland will get into this in much greater detail, the intent of the bill is to focus on gifted education in our state and provide our very most capable students with increased challenges to better prepare them to advance in the academic world. I would urge you to adopt the...I guess one final comment, Senator McFarland, again, will get into this in more detail, by limiting the students to 200, the fiscal note that you see in your book, which has a roughly two and a third million dollar impact is reduced considerably. I believe there will be an A bill following this, again, Senator McFarland will get into this, appropriating \$133,000 as opposed to the existing two and a half million dollars. With that brief explanation, I would move the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk, I believe we have amendments to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator McFarland would move to amend the committee amendments. (See McFarland amendment on pages 421-22 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow senators, in the committee amendments the criteria for selection to this program are given and I want to add some additional criteria. So on page 4 where we talk about criteria, the amendments, if adopted, that I propose, would read that the criteria for admission to the academy, which shall include but not be limited to consideration, and then you would insert "consideration of high school grades, class standing, standardized test scores, written essays, letters of recommendation, leadership roles and involvement in extracurricular and community activities. Grades