

want to enshrine coordinating commission language into the statutes? Shouldn't the statutes be more generalized and then the coordinating commission be slightly more specific? So we took the language that came from the coordinating commission, generalized it somewhat, continued with the concept of prioritization that the community colleges thought was so important and we offered the amendment to the bill which is now the amendment to this bill. It is at its heart, we've had good discussion about community colleges' role and mission and their place within the overall system of higher education. It is one which will certainly not be resolved here today. This amendment does not purport to do that. This amendment simply provides more modern language for the role and mission of community colleges and also gives a prioritization. As a matter of fact, it adds a prioritization for the types of programs that Senator Crosby said she thinks are more important for community colleges to operate. It does, in fact, state that that is their top priority. With that, I would urge you to return the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. We will now vote on the motion to return to Select File. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 1 nay, Madam President, on the motion to return the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion is adopted and we are at Select File. Senator Withem, for opening on your amendment.

SENATOR WITHEM: Simply urge adoption of the amendment and be happy to respond to questions that others may have.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I'd like to ask Senator Withem a question, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Withem, would you explain to the body what you explained to me as to how the language in this relates to articulation of credits between the community colleges and the four-year colleges in the state?