

cost effective project. They have got to have a hearing in front of the Education Committee. They have to get approval by the Legislature for these specific proposals. That's probably a better system than eliminating the cap altogether, although I'm sure Tom Johnson and the community colleges would be very excited about doing that, just getting rid of the cap altogether. I think in this area of growth in higher education it's probably good to have this check in place. The way the system operates though it is a de facto case by case approval by the Legislature and even though we don't like the way the bills are worded it's probably not a bad system. We have the hearings in front of the Education Committee. They have to make their case. They're usually grilled rather severely by committee members on whether proposal is really needed or not. A lot of times we'll make some changes and it's probably a good approach. And this year we felt that the proposal brought to us by Senator Peterson and others was a good proposal. It will probably help the Northeast Community College system. It's probably one that's justified, that they don't necessarily need to go to the expenses of a special election and a campaign and all of those up in the Norfolk area to bring this about. So I'm standing more, I guess, to defend our system that's evolved than the specific proposal, although the specific proposal is a good one and I plan to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Withem really said practically everything that I wanted to say. I think this is a good system. When you bypass the electorate on capital construction that community college system has to come in and request and prove that there is a need and since legislators are, in a sense, the people's representatives, they then can make that decision and if it is a good one, then they will approve it as we are considering LB 395 today. And I do plan to support LB 395. Do want to remind you that these are not open-ended, that Metro Tech's ending date is in 1990 and the Lincoln Southeast is in 1991 and there is a date certain on LB 395. And I think this is a built-in protection if we are going to exempt them from the general election, that there has to be some check and balance for capital construction. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, Senator Lamb on