

SENATOR WARNER: ...than the dollar match...

SENATOR HALL: Uh-huh.

SENATOR WARNER: ...which is a dollar for dollar.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise, I guess, to, obviously, support of introducing the deficit appropriation bill, we have to do that. I, likewise, have questions about Section 11 and probably considerably slower than Senator Hall because I still don't think I understand. We have two different bills before us on the student assistance program, 468 and 651, plus we have the status quo, the way in which the...the current money is distributed that an Attorney General's Opinion has kind of brought into question whether we're doing that properly and you're saying that you need this section in the bill to facilitate the passage of either of these two statutes. Is that correct? Yes, Senator Warner, would you respond to a question? I'm sorry, I didn't ask that to begin with.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes. It's not to facilitate the passage. In the event...

SENATOR WITHEM: In the event, I'm sorry, yeah.

SENATOR WARNER: In the event of passage of bills which would...would provide a distribution of the scholarship funds differently than what was...they were done last fall, we...all we're avoiding is the maintenance of effort requirement. With this section is the maintenance of effort requirement will be 521,000 which is what it has been for a number of years. The additional 750,000 that was added last year would not be a part of that maintenance of effort level. It's a three-year average but it's just to provide greater flexibility, I guess, to the Legislature choosing what distribution formula they want without being confronted with the overmatch being a maintenance of effort issue in addition to whatever other arguments there would be.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. So I'm, admittedly, not as up to speed