

April 6, 1989

LB 812

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Warner. Now, Senator Withem, you heard the explanation that he just gave me. Since I don't know as much as I should know about this, I am asking if you still think that this is something that sets up a different procedure than what we are looking at in LB 651?

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: It does not set up a different procedure. It paves the way for being able to have a procedure different than the one in 651. If your ultimate decision is going to be that you want to go with the decision other than 651, this is probably going to be...well, I don't know. I don't know if it is a necessary sort of thing to do. It helps facilitate the passage of a different approach, and it is a stab at making...going to a different approach and holding us harmless, I am not so sure we can even do. I have a request that I am drafting to the Attorney General's Office to find out if we can even rename dollars that we have already spent for purposes of convincing the federal government we didn't spend them the way that we did.

PRESIDENT: Time has elapsed.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of Senator Withem's amendment to LB 812, even though I understand that he intends to withdraw the amendment at the close of the debate. The issue here I think is clearly one of how do we basically continue to get federal funds, qualify for that, and yet allow for additional monies that are appropriated to not go toward the students who might happen to attend an institution other than one that is funded by the state. It clearly is just a mechanism that sets up a separate program that the monies will be funneled into, and there will be enough monies put into the current program so that they qualify and meet under that program the federal requirements, but under the second program, there would be basically the exclusion of those students who choose a private institution. It's just basically an accounting procedure, so to speak, to avoid meeting requirements that the federal government would have us meet if