

what is required for a dollar for dollar match which is about 530,000. The additional money, whether or not that is to be distributed under a formula determined by the state or if it is to be distributed in the future in the same fashion as the federal funds, the budget bill, the appropriation bill does not affect that. All it does is maintains, as it is drafted, the flexibility to choose without being encumbered by a maintenance of effort requirement that would otherwise be avoided. You know, if there is a concern, I don't know, I have seen a number of figures of how redistribution using greater emphasis on the cost of an institution may affect, may affect distribution. It's my understanding, for example, when Missouri went to a cost of distribution formula, and it may be different than what is proposed in LB 651 but, nevertheless, 8 percent of their money then all went to students attending private institutions and Missouri, as a result of that, Missouri established a separate program for those students that were in hardship positions, they established a separate program for state institutions, as I...public institutions, as I understand it. All we're trying to do is maintain that flexibility for the state. You know, so frequently we hear arguments that we get tired of being mandated by the federal government as to what the state can do. All we're doing with this language that the appropriation bill has proposed is to provide for the state the flexibility to choose how the distributed funds over and above what is required for match are to be distributed. That's all it does. If you act, makes no change in the law. If you pass LB 651, this language will still fund that program in its entirety. The only thing that you will not be encumbered with is that maintenance of effort that the federal government then would dictate what Nebraska may want to do. And it seems very difficult for me to believe that we are striving to let the federal government determine how state funds, total state funds, are to be distributed. It would seem to me that would be a privilege that the Legislature and the state ought to want to retain for itself.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I would just like to read what the statutes do say about this scholarship award program. And I'm going to...if you would like to pull it out, it's in 85-97...excuse me, 85-980, it's on 804 of the book and it reads, Legislative Findings. And I'm going to skip a couple and just go down to the four that I think are