

necessarily declining nationally, but the pie is being split wider so that the same funds are available nationally but there are more people...Indian Colleges being established. So this is the essence. If there are more questions or more details I'll be happy to try to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment. Senator Warner, followed by Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR WARNER: Yeah, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wehrbein has explained in detail. I was just going to relate another brief conversation I had with Senator Withem earlier this morning, because one of the...there is no statutory correct authorization in which the state would participate with the community college of an Indian Community College, and, as a result, funding of any kind would have to be channeled through some other area. And I don't know that the Education Committee has had that issue directly before them, but the gist of our conversation this morning that Senator Withem and I had is that perhaps this is something that, along with the other many studies, that they are responsible for that they will be looking at over the summer prior to next year to see if there is some appropriate substantive legislation that needs to be considered in addressing this kind of issue. Senator Wehrbein has also pointed out, at least it's my understanding, that the bulk of the students attending are in academic programs and since they're in academic programs and more of them are transferring to a four-year institution, the need for this type of assistance to ensure that their credits are transferable and assist in those students being able to transfer to a four-year institution very readily, that this can be of substantial assistance in that area. So I would be supportive of the amendment but with the understanding there, as Senator Wehrbein has pointed out, there will be additional review of this as a matter of policy and I...including by the Education Committee.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, member of the body, if I could ask Senator Wehrbein some questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, sir.