

scholarships and what the bill...the amendment does, it establishes two scholarship programs. The one program I suppose could be most accurately described briefly as similar conceptually to the way LB 651 is now. The other scholarship program is conceptually similar to what has been done in the past, that is based on previous year Pell grants. In order to accomplish, though, a hold harmless position for those students attending public institutions, the A bill will need to be increased by 250,000. What is now being handed out to you is the calculations which show the percent of distribution to each of the different types of systems and the results if 250,000 is not added. There were other options that we have looked at, talked about. Some of those would require substantially more than the 250,000, if one wanted to have a hold harmless cause. The other important thing I should point out, too, included in the amendment is that as increases are made in these two funds for scholarship programs, those increases are to be equal in both scholarship programs, which would be required by the statutory provisions of the amendmert. I suspect this is the kind of thing that those of us who might perceived to be, at least, on two different sides have both given into what probably is a reasonably equitable treatment for students, whatever choice of institution they are making. If I have any time left, I would give it to Senator Withem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Barrett. In some ways...I thank you, Senator Warner, for the additional time. In some ways I am sorry this happened because we were having such a good time fighting about this issue and now we will get this issue resolved in maybe 15 minutes as opposed to taking all morning on it, and I apologize for that to those of you who were looking forward to working in your offices while we were fighting about this. This is a, I think, a good approach towards this issue. It is one that probably you are not going to see all sides ever satisfied with. There will be those that think that most of the money that goes into the scholarship programs should go to students that attend private institutions because we spend so many tax dollars on public institutions. Then there will be those on the other side who feel equally strongly that those people made a choice to go to private institutions and it is not the state's responsibility to even support those institutions indirectly. It is one of those issues where the feelings run so deeply that you are going to have dissatisfied people on both