

amendment, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I just wanted to stand in support of Senator Baack's amendment. I would like to ask you a question, Senator Baack, if I may.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack.

SENATOR DIERKS: The fiscal note on LB 845 really is one that calls for a revenue increase rather than a revenue output, is that right? Or revenue decrease?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: I think that the type of legislation that Senator Baack has brought to us is essential, not only for the Western Technical Community College, but probably to bring fairness to the whole system, and so I would just urge your support of the Baack amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Baack, would you care to close?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, just a short closing, Senator Moore asked a question whether anyone else was close to qualifying for this. I have information that says that Central, the Central area is close to qualifying, and also the...if there happens to be some change in ag land valuations, of course, that could change, then Southeast could also qualify at that point. So there are...so there could be some advantages down the road for those areas also. I think that, I think it has been a good discussion and I think that Senator Moore does bring up some good points, and it is not something that we are going to just discard, and we are not going to keep continuing to look at because there may be a better way of doing this. I must admit that I am not...I am a little bit uneasy with the way we are doing it, except I do know that to direct those funds, this is one way of doing that. I think that...also I know there has been some question as to why am I amending this into 143 instead of carrying LB 845 right on through. I will be very frank with you, I put this vehicle out here last year so that it would be ready because I knew these negotiations were going to be taking place; I knew we were going to try and come up with something for the community colleges and try and develop something for them that is going to be a more long-term solution