

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, do you have something?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator McFarland would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, I have your AM2899 in front of me. That is found on page 1285 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: All right. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This is 2899, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, sir, 2899.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Okay. I have offered a series of amendments here and this is the first one. This is an amendment that would require that the appropriation requests from the Board of Regents to the Legislature, instead of being distributed to the seven campuses, seven institutions, directly from the Legislature would, in fact, be a lump sum appropriation which would go back to the Board of Regents for their consideration of how to distribute it to the seven institutions. As you know, this particular constitutional amendment establishes a new Board of Regents of Higher Education and then establishes seven separate boards of trustees at the various institutions in our state. At the present time, the budget, as I understand it, the budget requests would come from the various institutions to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents would consider those budgetary requests and then submit such a request to the Legislature, and then the Legislature would make those determinations on how the particular funding should be appropriated and then appropriate specific funds back to each of the seven institutions. This amendment would change that in that, instead of having the money directly appropriated from the Legislature back to each of the seven institutions, there would be a lump sum or composite appropriation submitted back to the Board of Regents and then the Board of Regents would have the final discretion on how that money would be appropriated. It would be consistent with the Board of Exon...or Board of Regents v. Exon decision and I think it would be very consistent in establishing some kind of authority by the Board of Regents over the funding process, because it seems to me in the present circumstances, if the only function of the Board of Regents is to consider the requests for the various institutions and then submit it to the Legislature and the Legislature makes the