

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator McFarland would move to amend. I now have 2901, Senator. (See page 1287 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I won't withdraw this one. This amendment, I think, is an appropriate amendment and I don't think it should be withdrawn. I think it should be considered. I realize from the previous votes and some of the debate on the floor that this...that people are considering this as kind of a measure that's already been discussed and already been decided and all we need to do is just go through the motions of having a debate on it and approve it. But I think this particular amendment raises a philosophical and political question that we really need to consider. Under LR 239CA, there will be established a Board of Regents of Higher Education composed of 11 members. Six will be elected. As I understand it, two will be from each congressional district and then there will be five members appointed by the Governor. There are several philosophical and structural problems with this kind of arrangement, in my view. The first one is I wonder if we really need 11 members on a particular Board of Regents. At the present time, we only have eight members. I don't see or I haven't really heard a rationale for increasing the membership on a Board of Regents from eight to 11 members. I don't...I think that's too many. I don't think we need 11 members and I think eight would be appropriate. Actually, some number, it would seem to me, seven, eight, nine would be more appropriate than having 11 total members as Board of Regents. The second philosophical problem I have is why is the mix between elected and appointed regents necessary? I mean, if you're going to have elected regents, why not have them all elected? The idea...and I think the surveys that have been done by the newspapers, show that there is a tendency to prefer election of regent members. However, there have been studies and previous recommendations that we would be better off if all of the regents were appointed, as they are in other states. I think California, for example, comes to mind, what my understanding is that all of their regents are appointed by the Governors on various staggered terms. This particular amendment would keep the number of regental...regent members the same as it is now. There would still be eight but, instead of having a mix of appointed and elected Regents, this would have the provision that all eight members would be appointed by the