

explains it in this article. It says, the most important defect of the proposed legislation is the failure to link a consolidated budget with a consolidated appropriation for the senior institutions of higher education. The proposed legislation charges the new statewide Board of Regents with accumulating budget requests from the seven institutions, and consolidating them into a single budget request in the Legislature. However, the Legislature would then appropriate funds directly to each institution. Senator Warner says that the Legislature should not be the coordinating body for higher education, which it has clearly been up to the present. But, if the Legislature appropriates individually to each institution, then the new Board of Regents will be an advisory board only, and the Legislature will continue to be the real coordinating body. Individual institutions will almost certainly "end run" the Board of Regents whenever their requests are denied by the board, producing an annual appropriations dog fight in the Legislature. To prevent this, and to give the new Board of Regents the ability to shape the configuration of our higher education system, the Legislature should give a single consolidated appropriation back to the regents. The regents, in turn, should have to deal with any shortfall in appropriations relative to the original budget request. And that is really the argument in favor of this particular amendment. If you don't adopt this amendment to the present bill, you're going to have that continuing problem that the Legislature then becomes the coordinating body for higher education. And, again, as I said before and some of you weren't here earlier at the beginning of the morning, it seems to me that if a state college, for example, makes a request, through the Board of Regents, the Board of Regents considers that request for funding, but does not include it in its funding request to the Legislature, the Board of Regents effectively has said, no, that request for funding isn't meritorious enough for us to consider to advance to the Legislature, therefore we will not make that request to the Legislature itself. And if, in fact, this amendment is adopted and the Legislature then has to appropriate money back to the Board of Regents, it would seem to me, for distribution to the seven institutions, then it would seem to me the state college would be deterred from going to the Legislature and making a request because they know that the money is going to come back to the Board of Regents anyway. And, even if they are successful with the Legislature in getting maybe a set of... a portion of funds set aside for their particular project, that they know that the Board of Regents would have discretion in