

March 16, 1990

LB 1141  
LR 239

become law if LR 239 were to pass. It was our feeling that when we worked on the higher education report that merely writing language in the Constitution is not enough, that there should be some vision of what that system would look like. And I believe this is Senator Warner's priority bill and it is our desire to see this work its way through the entire process and actually be enacted. It may have to be reenacted to be absolutely certain after the legislation is...after the constitutional amendment is adopted. That's what 1141 does. Senator Warner will get into the nitty-gritty of it. I will tell you what the committee decided it wanted to do to see changes made in 1141, they're listed in your bill book, I'll just quickly read through them for purposes of the record. First of all, concern was mentioned at the committee hearing that we will be...that the Governor will be making lots of appointments to the various boards of trustees that will be established in LR 239 and that there should be some screening process to get good names of people presented to the Governor. So we're suggesting that a nominating panel be established and it would work not unlike, I think, the way in which judicial names get referred to the Governor, that there would be names selected, the nominating panel would conduct interviews and they would forward three names on to the Governor for each appointment to be made. Secondly, it is our intent that this ought to be as revenue neutral as possible. There are a lot of staff now currently in central administration and administrative staff at the college level and campus level and there's staff in the Coordinating Commission, it's our intent that that staff ought to be sufficient to handle this new system. Number three, we make the change in the nonvoting member. We'll probably have to make a change in this to make it a voting student member to be consistent with what we did on LR 239. But the committee's recommendation was that the student member should be a member selected by the student body and not necessarily the study body president. Changes the dates when the appointments will be effective. It adds...this is a fairly significant one, it adds a new duty for the Board of Regents, that the Board of Regents would be able to approve all name changes of any of the four-year institutions. They would have that power. The Higher Education Commission that we referenced in LR 239 will clarify that it would be strengthened and its role be clarified, that...excuse me, that its abilities to conduct the strategic planning duties for higher education that that be stated more strongly in the bill. The Regents will have to make a biennial report on major research initiatives to the Legislature. The