

March 16, 1990

LB 1141

LR 239

studied, supervised the study of higher education, would like to see this actually put into place. If you remember, when the report came out there was a tremendous amount of conversation and observation and debate and discussion, lots of what-if sorts of scenarios, some of those centered around the fact that where I think we, as a group of people that oversaw the study saw the recommendations as being recommendations to provide coordination authority that doesn't exist now, some of the criticism that came out was of a further decentralization of the ability to coordinate. And that certainly is not true. What the report did is it made a firm differentiation between the concepts of coordinating and of governance, governance being the responsibility of manning the day-to-day operations, hiring the president, hiring the staff, setting rules for the way the institution will operate, supervising the staff, making maintenance types of decisions, making decisions on what student policy will be, on what faculty policy will be. All of those decisions, the consultants felt could be made better by a local...I don't mean local in the sense of geographic local but institutional basis with boards that have only one function and that is making sure that that institution functions on a day-to-day basis, that the coordination function though making sure all seven of those campuses function together as a system, a system that is able to allocate resources, set priorities, provide role and mission types of decisions and provide enforcement of those decisions is better made by a state level Board of Regents. There's a lot of discussion about the relative division of power in that sort of arrangement. So LB 1141's primary function, as I can see it, is to demonstrate to the people, as they go to vote on LR 239CA, how the system is likely to look. So we think it's important that the Legislature actually acts upon this. On the other hand, if LB 1141 sits here on our bill desk and moves no further along the system, LR 239 will still...if it goes on, will still, in fact, be voted on by the people. So I think it's important whether you agree with LR 239CA or disagree with LR 239CA that we mold LB 1141 into what could be a coherent system and that we advance this on along through the process. It's not quite...I told Senator Warner I was going to try to make the argument that this is really like an A bill that ought to keep up with LR 239CA. It's not quite that type of relationship but it really is one that I think you ought to move LB 1141 onto the next stage of consideration so it will be there along with LR 239CA so when we consider LR 239CA on Select File that it will be able to...the implementation legislation will be able to come along with that.