

As far as any detailed explanation of what the bill does, I would defer that on over to Senator Warner where he can be as detailed or as general as he may choose to be. If you would like to use some more of the opening time, Senator Warner, I would be happy to give that to you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Withem has indicated very clearly the uniqueness of the proposal here in trying to give some structure as to how a constitutional amendment would be implemented in order to reduce the number of questions that people may have in their minds. Most of the discussion that I have...we all have participated in in recent months since the report was completed has dealt with some aspect of the makeup of what is suggested. What seems to me has been significantly lacking from the discussion is what is it we want to have happen in postsecondary education in Nebraska in the long range of things? We should ask ourselves who now, as did the consultants, who now brings the larger picture of postsecondary education in Nebraska into focus? We have several entities, all with their respective responsibilities but no vehicle whatsoever, no vehicle whatsoever to coordinate and to look at all of postsecondary education, other than the Legislature. Back in 1978, I thought that was all that was needed, personally. I was involved in another study and from that study the current role and mission was established and essentially it was assumed that effective coordination could be done as part of the budget process. I was told then that that would not work. All of us were told then that that probably would not work. Well, it hasn't worked badly but it has not worked well. And what we all know is that the demands on postsecondary education are going to expand tremendously more than what they have been in recent years. We all know the pending legislation that is introduced just this session alone can have and will have tremendous impact as to what educational opportunities will exist, how efficient they will operate, how effective they can be, what kind of access that might be provided and there's just a whole series of those kinds of questions which we attempt to address one bill at a time. What this state sorely needs and what we do not have is a delegated body, in this case the constitutional amendment authorizes, a group of individuals to be called a Board of Regents who have the responsibility of programming, program approval, budget submission and, most importantly, long range planning for