

SENATOR WARNER: Sure, this higher ed commission is not similar to the coordinating commission as we know it now, but it does have a similarity in one respect. The coordinating function public sector will be in the Board of Regents, but the higher ed commission I tend to look at it as the structure or the formalizing a commission, a group, where a diverse interest in higher education can come together and talk about mutual concerns, mutual interests, and representation of proprietary, the independent, the different public sectors together with the interests, a Governor, the individual who would be chairman would be a nonboard member appointed by the Governor. With those, and there is a couple of representatives of the Legislature permitted in that, too, but it is primarily, from my viewpoint at least, an opportunity for those diverse groups to get together to discuss common issues. They do have a couple of specific responsibilities that currently are the responsibilities of the coordinating commission, as we know it, and that deals with the compiling of certain data, primarily it is data that goes to the various national types of data collections. And then they also will have the responsibility, as the coordinating commission does now, for the distribution of student aid funds under the statutes, and then, secondly, of course, the current coordinating commission has the same kinds of representatives on it now. Currently they are selected by the boards that they represent, just as would be true under the bill as it was introduced. I don't know if I covered every one of those questions or not.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, Senator Warner, I'd like to ask a follow-up question. Does this board then, in any significant way, ...does it have any significant variance from the board that is currently in place as far as power is concerned?

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And the reason I ask that is that there has been acknowledgement over the years that the present board does not have any power and, therefore, maybe it is kind of administrative in nature. I guess if you could answer that and then why the make-up of it was changed and why, again, back to that independent colleges? If it just simply a get together kind of board, that is okay, but if there is significant change in the power of that board, then maybe that is not okay.

SENATOR WARNER: The discussion that we hear today relative to