

in favor of the bracket motion, excuse me, I will take that as a sign that you want more work done on the higher education issue; that you want us to continue on with the study that we authorized last year, go into year two of the study, look at the role and mission, spend the summer months working with, yes, with the regents, with the trustees, with the business community in our state, with the community colleges, attempting to forge some sort of coalition around some type of change in the way higher education is governed and coordinated, because I am here to tell you today, and I think most people in the body would accept the argument we don't do a particularly good job of coordinating higher education; that we need to do a better job of getting the best bang for our buck in the area of higher education. This may or may not be the proposal. There may or may not be the support for the proposal here today. I, frankly, am very comfortable with the Widmayer and Associates recommendation, but I think it is important that if we do it, rather than having this bill limp across to Final Reading and then have it...I think it would be quite possible that the various lobbyists working for the bill could go through a process of cajoling, arm-twisting, we could get the 30 votes to put it on the ballot, and move forward, but if we aren't going to do that with the conviction that we need to do, I don't think we should do it. So this motion is put up here as a sense of the body sort of motion. It is, as I understand it, and correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Clerk, or Mr. President, that when the principle introducer of legislation offers a bracket motion, it is a simple majority as opposed to an absolute majority for passage. And if there is a simple majority, not simple-minded majority, but a simple majority of the members up here that wishes to carry forward with this action, then we probably ought to bracket it and work on it over the summer, and reintroduce it next year. If, on the other hand, a simple majority of the body wishes not to bracket the bill, wishes to address the issues of higher education, then we ought to go ahead and take the time and work the thing out here on the floor at this time. So that is why I am offering the motion.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, I understand we have an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend Senator Withem's amendment by striking April 9 and inserting April 10.