

April 4, 1990

LB 1141
LR 239

the ability to rectify that, give them teeth and power, as Senator Lamb has indicated. That's what this does. Eleven members appointed by the Governor, constitutionally would be authorized, as is in the case of LR 239, but the Coordinating Commission would be authorized to have program review, long-range planning, budget review and the protection of the Regents v. Exon provision of the current Constitution, the lawsuit that was filed. But this is a chance to find out where people really are. Now, I think we all know where they really are, which is to do nothing. But if you will adopt this amendment and let it go to Final Reading and on next Monday, when we get done with other things that we will be dealing with that day. And then you will have an opportunity to have a response from a lot of people, because there is an option, and they're all amendable. And then maybe we can address the issue of coordination in a fairly short fashion in what time we'll have that day, because essentially where people are, in fact, will be very apparent. The one concept this has which is consistent, absolutely, totally consistent with the study is that it separates coordination and governance. Governance would remain as it is now. The Board of Regents would have the governance authority over the university system. The State College Board would have the governance over the state colleges, no change. But you would, in fact, have effective coordination, which as others have said really is the guts of this matter, because they don't want it, they don't want it. As Senator Scofield pointed out, we're not unique, every state faces this problem. And, believe me, it is going to become much more serious as budgets become tighter and more difficult. As times get tough, we have got to have a system that can act on a long-range, total statewide higher ed system of education, and there is no way to accomplish without some type of amendment such as this. So, without extended discussion, I would hope you would adopt it, adopt the amendment, forget all the rest of the amendments. By the way, I want to point out LB 1141 was introduced, as you all know, to give some structure as to the proposed structure to LR 239, so the public would have an idea how it would be implemented. That purpose is served, as well as the bill stands now, as it would be if it was enacted and passed. As many of us have indicated several times, there is a belief that in all probability we would have to reenact the legislation next session anyway should a constitutional amendment be approved, because there is a doubt whether you can constitutionally enact legislation prior to adoption of a Constitution that authorizes it, and I suspect that is true, and