

therefore leaving it open to the entire public institutional array. That has been discussed. And what I'm now offering is literally the same thing, plus, by virtue of the concern with constitutionality associated with technical community colleges having a property tax base, as well as the state offerings, state appropriation, to also include in there and insert into that same language notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, hoping that particular language, in and of itself, will then untangle us from the potential of some unconstitutional twist with that property tax language. Through some counsel's advice, they think that would address the concern that Senator Warner had relative to any questions there. Really, when it comes down to this whole language we're talking about coordinating and looking after the whole situation. For the most part we still need to look at the community and technical school offerings with respect to especially their academic offerings, and in terms of coordination articulation. Granted by virtue of a different funding technique for the technical community colleges than what we have at the state college level and/or at the university level they show up a little bit different. It requires a different analysis. But the bottom line is to the student who is going to be moving through that system and/or the community who is going to receive the benefits from higher education in this state, those kinds of things are mechanical to them in terms of the financing. The real question here is the coordination of course offerings, the transferability of courses, the role and mission, if you will, of the entire higher education arena. And that is why I offered this amendment to include all of higher ed and not just the four-year institutions and beyond. Again, going back in my area, and this isn't to point a finger at anyone, but going back on my experience about five or six years ago we had, from an academic perspective, a much more difficult time articulating and coordinating between the technical community colleges and the state colleges than we did between the state colleges and the university. Now, over time we've developed and we are at now what I would consider a very well laid out working gentleman's agreement. Part of it stems from the role and mission studies that were done in previous years. But we finally got ourselves up to a good, solid working relationship in that transferability and the like between the two-year institutions and the four-year institutions. But, again, that is primarily out of good, positive leadership on the part of some of the personalities that are working in that system. Nothing necessarily in print, or concrete, or contractual