

April 9, 1990

LB 1141
LR 239

perfect in that the community colleges, since they do have a property tax basis, that we didn't want to diffuse that issue from the constitutional language, and so I withdrew the amendment giving us the opportunity to sit down with Senator Warner's office and other people to come up with the exact language to do that. In so doing and working with LB 1141, and then in talking and discussing the concept, through Senator Warner's suggestion, was that we ought to do the same thing within LB 239 (sic) in that LB 239 (sic) changed the structure but only referenced and alluded to the state colleges and the university system in governance and in coordination. And so, through that discussion, we came up with the fact that within the coordination side of the structural change, that we ought to also include the community colleges in that coordination. The amendment that you find on page 1961, as you can see, is really quite simple. It simply talks about the addressing on the very front page, on page 1, where it starts talking about the authority of the coordination of all public postsecondary institutions is institutions governed by the board of trustees. By striking "governed by the board of trustees", we are talking now about the coordination, they are responsible for the coordination of all public postsecondary institutions, thereby bringing in the community colleges, and then the additional language is to deal with the notwithstanding provision of the Constitution relative to the property tax. So it is really very much the same amendment we talked about on LB 1141, but putting it into LB 239 or LR 239 so that the coordination side, it doesn't change the community colleges governance structure; 239 changes the state colleges and university governance structure but it does include them within LB 239 (sic) with respect to when that new structure develops, the coordination and planning for higher education, that the coordination does include the input and the control over the community colleges with respect to all of those items that we talked about that would be included in coordination, those things being, basically, your role and mission, and duplication, and all those kinds of things will be considered under the new governance structure as well. I believe the community colleges have provided a great deal of input as well into this and are comfortable with the fact that this does not superimpose authorities and activities they have now, and feel that it is a just amendment. So with that, I offer the amendment to LR 239, which basically puts the community colleges into the coordination side of the issue associated with 239.