

drafted that was for a state purpose, and, therefore, the community colleges were...it was illegal to require them to levy a property tax. What we are doing with the proposed amendment that Senator Conway is offering is making an exception that would retain without question the...if there is a property tax levied, in this case, that it does not constitute a state purpose when for coordination purposes and only coordination purposes we give authority to this coordinating commission to review programs, role and missions, and the other, budget submission and planning that is provided, that a coordinating commission could exercise that responsibility over a state college system without running afoul that it was a state purpose in conflict with the provisions in the revenue section of the Constitution.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, in follow-up, the question I'd have then is the coordinating commission would most likely take the role of denying initiatives brought to it by the various campuses or coordinating bodies. For instance, what I am saying is you wouldn't have the coordinating commission saying to the community colleges, you shall do this. In fact, what will most likely happen is the community college will say we want to do this, can we do it? And the coordinating commission will say yes or no. Is that the concept we have here?

SENATOR WARNER: Generally, yes, generally that is true, but actually the way it is written, the coordinating commission would not have to be asked to disapprove. They could disapprove a program and enforce that disapproval should any institution go ahead on its own. As a practical matter, you are correct. I would anticipate that certainly new programs would go through that coordinating commission for their approval or disapproval, and then if it was approved, of course, then it becomes an issue of the Legislature whether to fund.

SENATOR WESELY: I see. Okay. Well, I appreciate that and it does help clarify the situation. What we are essentially doing then, as I would understand it, would be a local campus, Lincoln or Omaha or the state colleges...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...or the community colleges would have an idea to do something, they would have to evidently work through a system and eventually have a green light from the coordinating