

coordinating commission's planning function and then as Senator Withem has pointed out, then in some instances at least, those then could become, particularly say tuition levels, could become a budget issue in time as to why a particular institution had a tuition level that was different than what was anticipated to be good public policy in the overall planning for postsecondary education for the state as a whole. And so while they cannot have, constitutionally cannot have any direct control, impose any type of governance onto the governing boards, whether it is the university, state colleges or community colleges, they can have, we think in the long run, significant impact. The real authority, the real control of coordination and need for coordination lies primarily first in long-range planning which this commission will have. Secondly then, is the program review and disapproval or approval as spelled out by Senator Withem, and again, it's a very strong one because if the coordinating commission disapproves a program even though we fund the program, even though the Legislature would fund the program under the mechanism, a warrant for the cost of those, at least to be provided for with state funds, but General Fund money could not proceed and finally as their budget review authority, capital construction review which again gives a significant input on the coordination and avoidance of unnecessary duplication, that that can be done.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would like to give my time to Senator Wehrbein.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam President, members, and I'll probably give mine back to Senator Withem because it is some questions I have. Describe the budget process, and I got part of here where the commission shall analyze budgets, priorities in light of the statewide comprehensive plan, role and mission statements. Is that the heart of the budget process in that section?

SENATOR WITHEM: I believe it is and I'm going to do what I did to Senator Robinson. On budget review questions, that was the section of the bill Senator Warner worked on and if he would be willing to respond I think you would get a more accurate description of the intent.