

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I would, Senator Kristensen. That's in the bill itself, not in the committee amendments, but I'll...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Would you prefer to wait until we get off the committee amendments?

SENATOR WITHEM: Maybe I could have an opportunity to explain that first and then your questions might follow up on that.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I would gladly not ask any questions on that till we get onto the bill itself. Senator Warner, then if I could just ask you a couple questions from what Senator Hartnett had said. Would you envision this to be sort of a performance in audit sort of procedure or sort of a responsibility where you could examine programs and then instead of the current budget process where you look at the beginning 95 percent as a given and then we look for appropriations on other matters, would this be an opportunity to examine those programs and report to us about how that works? And if you want to use your own time or you can certainly have the rest of mine, that's fine.

SENATOR WARNER: I can answer briefly because the process for program review is not significantly different as far as the criteria that is used to what we now have in the coordinating commission. The legislation was enacted six, seven years ago which they currently review those programs except it's only advisory in nature that they can make recommendations to institutions. Currently they have, as I recall, three criteria that they use for monitoring courses that they feel there is no longer a significant need and but the institutions are free to discontinue or continue as they choose. By and large the cooperative efforts on most of the institutions have been fairly decent with some exceptions where it was shown from the type of study that it is done that the number of degrees being offered or the demand is such that there is no longer justification whether those programs may be recommended. Currently they have a kind of flagging, red-flag concept that there is no continued monitoring, not necessarily discontinued. We're anticipating a little bit what they may set up for rules and regulations, but I would anticipate that there would probably be somewhat of a similar process where, as programs were reviewed, some might be given sort of a probation period if there is not adequate need for that program. Maybe it needs to be either beefed up or discontinued. They would indicate that process but