

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, this amendment is a very simple amendment to LB 663 and it comes out of the recommendations from the LB 24...from the LR 247 study of higher education that we did a couple of years ago. And all that this amendment does is remove the word "Technical" from the name of the community colleges. Right now, most of those colleges have removed that name a number of years ago to call themselves simply Community Colleges. Community college now across the nation is meant to imply that they have basically three functions, and those are offering applied technology, academic transfer and community service programs so that they feel that they do not...that they no longer need the word "Technical" in their name and this would...all that this amendment does is remove the word "Technical". It's a fairly long...lengthy amendment because it has to be removed in every place in the statute where this occurs. So I would just be happy to answer any questions if anyone has any. If not, I would just move the advancement of the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, I commend Senator Baack for not saying that this is a technical amendment because it's too cheap a pun to use and I'm glad he didn't use that one, definitely. This is something the Education Committee had considered, did not want to add it as committee amendments. I think there was a little bit of concern about will changing the name some way, shape or form affect the role and mission. There was a bill in a few years ago dealing with changing state colleges' names to universities. We didn't feel comfortable on that. A reflection on this one, the community colleges have become more than just technical institutions. The Widmeyer report recommended that they get more heavily into academic transfer. It probably is appropriate to see their names changed and I have no objection to having this amendment added to this bill.

SENATOR WARNER: Seeing no further lights, Senator Baack, do you wish to close?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the reason I didn't say it was a technical amendment because it is an untechnical