

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's another one of these issues which one's motives are second guessed. I had reference to the statute, not the agreement, of a couple years ago, in 1989, when there were two formulas in which the statute, not any verbal agreement, but the statute says that there will be funded substantially equal. The basis of that, as a matter of public policy, was to accomplish what Senator Landis talked about a little bit ago, of a competitive spirit as opposed to competition. We're about...what we, as I see it, are about to embark upon just the very opposite. We are now going to establish a scholarship program for only one sector, not a noncompetitive one, but a competitive one. That's what it will be. I'm prepared to do something I probably wouldn't have done, because if we're going to embark upon this competitive venture, which it is, I'm prepared to support an amendment which will set a student scholarship for public institutions separate, a formula that will comply with the matching funds for the federal funds as required, which both public and private participate. And then a third scholarship program which is the one that you're addressing in this bill. I'm willing that the funds be distributed to that new scholarship program. As a matter of fact, I have an amendment to do it, I've had for several days, because it was probable, in my opinion, that the bill would be enacted. And, if it is, if we're going to make a major change in state policy and begin to separate institutions, which is interesting to me, we have not been talking about students as much as we have institutions today, if we're going to begin to do that route then I think we ought to make it a very clean program so everybody knows where they're at. And we have three programs. Actually with the adoption of this bill you've got four by budgetary basis. And we eliminate the provisions of substantially funding the same that was contained in the two distribution formulas by law, which it would do. And then under those basis we can continue with future funding as to which of the three institutions will get money, that is which of the three institutions students will get money to attend, which is the basis for it. If we're going to make a substantial change in state policy to single out, then let's do it. I will be offering, on Select File, I will not vote to advance the bill as it stands, but I'll offer an amendment on Select File that will do exactly that. And it seems to me that that would be much better state policy.