

September 28, 1992 LB 10

as originally introduced or do you not want the bill at all to affect this program?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I do not support the bill, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. I am beginning to work my way around to that position because it is obvious that a policy decision is going to be made here, and that policy decision is that the program should exist basically as it is now. And the reason I say that, there will be a shift in where the totality of the 75 percent remission for tuition comes from, but the student will continue to pay only the 25 percent. So as far as the thrust of the bill is concerned, the policy decision that people in the National Guard will receive 75 percent underwriting of their tuition is not going to change. Rather than have some hybrid, such as exists in LB 10, it would be better that no bill be passed at all. If there is genuinely the feeling that the state has made an obligation or entered into an obligation which must be kept at all cost, then this bill should not be considered for passage. But in case it is, I think the committee amendment should be stricken. Then we discuss the bill on the terms that it was introduced. Either the Appropriations Committee, and Senator Schimek corrected me, this is not a Governor's bill, this is the Appropriations Committee's concoction, at least the bill should be discussed by us in the form that the public was shown. The committee amendment makes a substantial change in how the funding is to be provided. So I hope you will vote for the reconsideration motion, and that having been done, I hope we will vote to remove the committee amendment. Then if you don't like the bill, vote to kill the bill. But with this little sweetener that the committee amendment calls itself offering, some may decide to go ahead and support it in this form. What we will do if we pass the bill with the committee amendment is to make a questionable situation even worse. We will have involved other parties who were not a part of that original obligation that people are discussing. The schools, colleges and university were not a party to any arrangement whereby people belonging to the National Guard would have part of their tuition paid by these educational institutions. You have to keep in mind that the National Guard does not exist as an educational entity. People were not asked originally to belong to the National Guard as a means by which they can go to school at a reduced rate. They were asked to join the guard...