

September 30, 1992 LB 29

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: In not only the Curtis case but, let's say generally speaking, the power is granted to the Coordinating Commission, they review a program, they decide the program is duplicative and should be stopped, do they have the power to shut that down or is that a recommendation to us? Or how does that work?

SENATOR WITHEM: They have the power to shut that down and, as a matter of fact, if we say, as a Legislature, we don't agree with you, Coordinating Commission, we're going to appropriate funds to run that program anyway, they say, sorry, you can't spend it. They have the power to enjoin DAS from issuing the warrants to pay for it. So they have pretty absolute power, I think. Senator Moore, I saw, was wanting to react to that. Is that also your understanding?

SENATOR WESELY: So would that power supersede the questions that we found in these two sections of law that were passed four years ago? The Coordinating Commission amendment and language was adopted subsequent to that.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Senator Wesely, you may continue.

SENATOR WESELY: Could you answer that question?

SENATOR WITHEM: I think the question...and we may be...the more we get into this discussion, the more I think we may be splitting hairs that don't need to be split. We're either going to have a baldheaded person or somebody with a full head of hair and splitting the hair may not make a lot of difference. But I apologize for any offense I may have given to anybody in the back row here. I apologize for that. (Laughter.) The issue...it seemed somewhat important when we were discussing it privately among some people and some people in the lobby, but there's a distinction between a program, a program being a Curtis horticulture, feedlot management, vet tech, and the seven others, versus the institution of Curtis itself. It's clear that the universi...the Coordinating Commission has power to approve or disapprove programs. What happens...an esoteric discussion may be, what happens if taking it out of Curtis, that they decide every program that is offered at Wayne State College is duplicative and ought not to be offered there, and there are