

September 30, 1992 LB 10

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Warner, your light is next.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I had a question of Senator Schimek, too, and it is in the same line of what Senator Bernard-Stevens, I guess, was asking on the definition of educational program. As you were speaking, what I understood you to say was that it would be the completion for the degree which they were currently seeking, whether it be a Bachelor of Science, a graduate program, whatever area it might be. I assume that there is whole host of electives that you can take that would also be included which I assume would address Senator Bernard-Stevens' question. The thought that occurred to me is it is not unusual for a student to change majors, and you may well go from a variety of degrees that you're seeking. I assume that your intent that the definition here follows the student through, if it is a four-year program, it is a four-year program even if it takes them six years to get through it because they change majors and, in effect, get a Bachelor of Arts degree as opposed to a Bachelor of Science degree. Well, I have the same problem. I am not real clear what that definition might be, and I'd have the same question, would this...the way I would read this, if you changed majors which resulted also in a different kind of degree although it still was a four-year degree, you would stop. You would no longer qualify the 75 percent once you changed majors, as you described what educational program is.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Warner, again that would not be my intent, that if you changed your major that you would be dropped from that. You are completing an educational program, a bachelor's degree, or in some cases, a certificate, or some kind of associate degree, that would not be my intent that you would lose your benefits. Now, perhaps, there should be a better way of wording it, and I apologize for bringing an amendment that is causing so many questions, but I hope through the discussion here on the floor that we can make the intent of this known.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Robak, please.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose this amendment and I rise to also