

just read it. Approval of employee contracts and the appropriation of money from the funds of the community college area shall be by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members, of the board rather than just a majority of those voting. This is a bill which is so reasonable, which is so clear and so easy to understand, I feel ashamed and embarrassed to bring you such a nice little bill, but I think it will be a pleasant change of pace for all of us. If you have any questions, I will answer them, otherwise I would move that we advance it to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers, would you respond to a question, please?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No. Yes, I will.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: What was the circumstances that generated this bill?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There was a situation at Southeast Community College, and I don't remember all of the details because it was a couple of years ago, where the whole process had questions, how a selection of an individual is made, secret agreements that may have been entered into that would increase the compensation above what was listed in the contract as a salary and a number of those kinds of things, but less than a majority of all the members had made these very important decisions. So there were people connected with the community college system with whom I discussed dealing with this matter because I had been drawn into the Southeast Community College incident. And when it became clear that this was much broader than that one incident, but the way the boards operated, it was felt that we should get a general law like this which would prohibit or prevent something like that from happening anywhere and it's not focused on one specific situation at one branch of the college.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Then this definitely would do away with some of that deal making? I support the bill, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.