

that we need to get funds to those heavy technology courses. I believe that Senator Wehrbein passed out a list that shows you those courses that fall within that category. And in order to accomplish this we needed this bill to come out of the Education Committee to make this change in statute, but also the funding and the funding changes from the formula come from the Appropriations Committee. So, with that, I'll turn it over to Senator Wehrbein and he will explain to you the Appropriations Committee recommendation.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I passed out a 241 summary, if you have it on your desk, it explains a little bit about the weighting factor for what we call heavy technology. And those courses are printed down below of what is included in this bill. And this is a proposal to weight heavy technology with those courses a little heavier in the form...funding formula. There are several weights, I don't know how much you want to get into it, but at this point there are...courses are weighted by a factor of one, which is called light or applied technology courses. There are...I'll take that back. There are 1 for enrollment in Class I; a light applied technology course is weighted by a factor of 1.5; and enrollment in Class II are heavy applied technology courses is now weighted at 1.75. This proposal takes the weighting from 1.75 to 2 in the formula for these courses as applied here because of the increased amount of money...increasing amount of money that it takes to have these courses provided. And so by weighting these for community colleges that have this they get a little extra money in the formula. This amounts to a \$47,133 in '95-96, and a cumulative increase of 217,000, '96-97. It already is in the mainline budget as proposed. We need the statutory change here to do that, if you're so inclined to do that. And it's been...as you can see in the 241 summary, it was done as a result of a three-year study...I mean a study that...to phase this in over three years. And this is a proposal for the community colleges to so proceed changing the weight here, and that's the purpose of this bill, that's the reason it came out of Education Committee, which they approved, and that's the reason it is an appropriations package because it is necessary for their approval...it's necessary to have the statutory change so we can proceed with this weighting for heavy technology. It is also an initiative of the Governor. It is generally supported as...widely as far as I know, and I would urge your