

system. What has been done with this bill is that the difference has been taken care of with General Fund appropriation, which I think is appropriate, and that the weighting system will not impact total funding of the community colleges across the state. During that interim study we discovered the shifting of courses by demand, I mean I realized that community colleges are very quick to respond to the needs of students, but there is a shift to academic transfer and some of the others, and there's a real concern about what is now applied technology. And understanding that those courses are much more expensive to offer with the heavy equipment and the types of things that are needed to offer those courses I think it's very reasonable to assume that the weighting should be changed. And also looking at the needs of companies and business in the future, most of your corporations, I think, you will find are very supportive of the particular type of course that's being offered through our community colleges and then our community colleges, for the most part, being the only ones that do offer these courses, and also that is the appropriate role for them. But to make sure that that continues, to be able to assist them in offering the kinds of courses we need in applied technology to meet the needs of not only business but of those students I would heartily support LB 241 and would ask you to do the same.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: For what it's worth department...Madam Speaker, I simply support Senator Bohlke's amendment to Senator Bohlke's amendment and I would urge your support.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Maurstad. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Madam Chairman and members of the Legislature, I just also stand in support of the amendment and also the bill. I've had the opportunity to visit some of our college in Milford and I understand the necessary shifting of these funds to the heavy technology area. They're doing a wonderful job of training these people and they need to level the funding balance to this area. So I stand in support. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Is there any further discussion on the Bohlke amendment? Seeing none, Senator Bohlke to close. Closing is waived. The question