

CLERK: Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend, FA570, Senator.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: This one is not...this one is controversial. And, quite honestly, I don't, I'm not even sure that I'm going to bring it to a vote, but I filed it because I want to have at least a discussion briefly. And if, of course, a discussion, if the body's not up to it, we'll just refile it until we are up to having the discussion. This amendment, if we voted on it and if it were adopted, would simply in the area that talks about the community colleges, in the area that their levies are reduced from eight down to four, I just add another sentence, for the most part. And the sentence says that as of July 1, year 2002, which is when the, we're starting at the 4 percent, that the community colleges will simply become a product of state government. And so what this basically says is that, that we then would finance the community colleges simply because they are not going to be able to function in that manner. And I want to take a little bit of time to talk about, again, the scenario. If you look at, and Senator Hillman had a great chart, but I do not have a copy of that, but if you look at the community colleges and their levy. And you just mentally look at what will happen to them when they go from eight down to four. Now, granted, some of the community colleges are better off. There are two that are...that have really been "hurt", "hurt", hurting by the process we have because the land values are simply too low. And that's Western and Mid Plains. I'm not sure in what position the community college, the Southeast Community College is, I just don't know. But if you look just at those two, there is no way on God's green earth that they will survive. And the discussion that we had earlier with Senator Hillman, basically Senator Warner and others implied that one of the possibilities certainly would be that at such point they would have...one of the options would be we move them under the state. Obviously it's too soon to make that statement now, and I understand that. But I do want to raise the issue. If that is in, what is in the back of people's minds, ask yourself the question then, in the year 2002 or 2001, where will you find the 54 million plus dollars it'll be needed at that point? Where do you find it? Where is it going to come from? This will be at the same time period that we'll be looking,