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LB 38

hearings will expand if we have the E clause. It will be contracted without, because the bill will be effective 90 days after the legislative session. Is it impossible to make use of LB 38? The answer comes back, no, it's not impossible, even if the E clause is unsuccessful and we pass it just as it is. However, the notice to the public, the amount of time to prepare, the opportunity for community information gathering, and preparing for the process, shrinks, in that you don't know what the status of the...you have a limited status at the end of the time in which LB 38 becomes effective before the budgets are due. Better to have a more expansive period to take testimony, hear from the public, respond to it, reconsider the budget, make adjustments, take it back to the public, and that kind of a thing. So LB 38, with an E clause, gives the community colleges greater flexibility than they now have for the budgeting process. My guess is that you want that budgeting process flexible, because you want as much public input as possible. And I think LB 38E does that better than LB 38 without the E clause. For that reason, I agreed to introduce this motion, in consultation with Senator Raikes. I would defer to Senator Raikes the remainder of my opening.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on the motion to reconsider, as stated by the Clerk and the Speaker. Now open for discussion on that motion. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you very much, Mr. President, members. Thank you, Senator Landis. I think Senator Landis has laid out the case very well. The issue here is not on...necessarily on the merits of the bill. That's been decided. The bill will go into effect. What we're asking here is that you help us implement it more effectively. The E clause would allow more time for the hearing; therefore, more public awareness, more opportunity for...more time, I should say, for the public to know about the board's decision. So I think, all in all, it's something that makes a lot of sense, and I would urge your support for this motion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. On with discussion, Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Bourne.