

April 10, 1979

LB 587

of this year. It was referred directly to General File, Mr. President.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move that LB 587 be advanced to E & R Initial. Contained in this bill is the recommended appropriations for postsecondary education, including state colleges, the University, the coordinating commission and for the community colleges. There is some additional appropriations for your consideration that will be contained in a subsequent bill, 591, but we will not be dealing with that issue today. A couple of general remarks I might make. First again, the across the board policies that the Committee is recommending, such as the seven percent increase in salaries, are reflected uniformly across the agencies. Also the general policies that were used in higher education on placement of equipment and for operating costs were again uniformly applied with some exceptions in the area of operating expenses where most of the exceptions that occur deal with utility costs where they are anticipated to be greater than is included in the general formula that we apply to all agencies, including higher education. The general percentage increase in the appropriations can be calculated a number of ways. The Committee reduced some continuation budget requests, that is, it took out funds for programs that are currently funded, and added in other programs. The point I should make clear as all of you are well aware of the basis on which we build a budget does not necessarily reflect the way which a particular agency will expend those appropriations. So while we are talking about individual items in many cases it will also occur that the administration of that agency will somewhat differ in their expenditures in a manner in which the proposed budget was arrived at, and it's not set critical but factually in that we recognize that certain amount of flexibility on the part of an administrator for an agency is necessary and appropriate, and expenditure dollars assigned for the purpose that that agency has can properly be adjusted from the time the Legislature meets and the completion of the next fiscal year, which would be June 30th of 1980. Generally, the board of trustees for the state colleges then is a continuation budget. There's a minimal increase of 16,000 added to the 260,000 currently appropriated for instructional improvement programs, that is funds that historically have been provided to the board of trustees which they subsequently distributed back to the individual campuses of the four colleges for specific program improvement. In the case of each of them I might mention without exception these are continuation budgets. One difference