

if we are going to have coordination and cooperation, and I think we do have to a great degree in higher education right now, but it happens at a level that, quite frankly, us as policymakers and even the policymakers in the institutions are not that much aware of, it happens down at the trenches. The fact that Kearney State College has programs available at the tech school at McCook, for example, is a good example that there is cooperation and coordination going on right now. But we need some mechanism to bring that level to a higher plane and it seems to me that an agency such as this could certainly do it, one that those of us in the Legislature could turn to and say, what is happening in higher education and have a way to get an answer. Now, I want to point out because there is some concern that I am trying to create a super board. That is not the case. This agency, this director will not be able to mandate to anybody that anything has to happen. The final decision and the operations of those institutions are still going to be vested with their constitutionally created Board of Regents and the State College Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors of the tech schools. We are going to still have the authority as far as budgets are concerned. The Appropriations Committee will still have to painstakingly go through the budget process they go through right now. But it seems to me that we will have some abilities to get some information and make some more clear decisions as we try to make those budget decisions. That is the purpose of the bill and I think I have got an amendment to the bill up there too. Do I not? Do you want me to take that amendment up as well now?

SENATOR CARSTEN PRESIDING

SENATOR CARSTEN: We have an amendment to the bill by Senator Vickers, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vickers' amendment is on page 1234 of the Journal.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vickers, on your amendment, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, this amendment, Mr. President, reinstates the duty of the agencies to provide an update of their report on space utilization in physical facilities at the public institutions. That was inadvertently left out.