

amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The motion fails. The amendment is not adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Wesely, Baack, Sieck and Lynch. (The Wesely, et al, amendment appears on page 1848 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CARSTEN: Who is first on the amendment?

CLERK: It is Senator Baack, Wesely, Sieck and Lynch.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Baack, do you want to take the amendment?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I think Senator Wesely was going to take this amendment but I will go ahead. What this amendment is is it deals with the funding for the technical community colleges. And what it would do is the technical community colleges feel slighted in the General Fund appropriation because they...all of the others, the university and the state colleges were all given funds for a 3 percent salary increase when the tech colleges were not. And what this does is it talks about approximately 40 percent of their funding comes from state General Funds and so they have taken 3 percent salary increase and taken 40 percent of that and so what they are asking for is about \$504,000 to fund a 3 percent salary increase for their employees. I think that, you know, we have had some talk in here on LB 796 when we talked about giving a higher property tax ability for these technical community colleges and what we are going to find is if we don't fund the salary increases through state aid, then this is going to fall again on property taxes and so I think this is what the technical colleges are looking for. So I would urge your adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a couple of questions, if I might. I think I would like to ask it from a member of the Appropriations Committee, whoever would like to answer these questions regarding appropriations.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Warner of the Appropriations Committee.