Testimony in support of community college bill (S Ed) (2016/03/10)

Dan Blocksom with the counties

Today, I was going to explain 1) how out-of-district tuition currently works; 2) what problems we've been experiencing; and 3) what problems this solves.

How it works
First, imagine a student "Joe." Joe lives in Kootenai county, which is "junior college district" (Others are Jerome and Twin for CSI, Ada and Canyon for CWI, and Kootenai for NIC), so he just pays the "in-district" tuition amount, and that's it. His property taxes go to fund NIC.

But now, let's imagine another student "Sally." Sally doesn't live in a junior college district, she lives in Cassia county. So when Sally goes to CSI, Cassia county is supposed to pay $50 per credit to try to compensate for that. There's a $500/semester maximum, $3000/lifetime maximum.

For Sally to get Cassia county to pay, Sally needs to turn in paperwork called a "certificate of residency." The county looks at it, approves or denies. If approves, then county lets CC know, and CSI will send a bill.

Sounds simple, right?

What problems
The first problem is that there is no deadline for the COR. So right now, Sally could turn in a COR a year after the fact. No one is happy. Sally may not have known, so she got an invoice. County doesn't like it because so late. College waiting all this time.
The second problem: Current deadlines don't work very well for late start classes. If Sally was taking a late start class, the invoice deadline is too early.

What problems this solves
This creates three deadlines for Sally: 1) Sally turns in COR by Dec 1; 2) Cassia county approves/denies COR by Dec 20; 3) CSI sends ONE invoice to Cassia by Jan 20. (May 1, May 20, and June 20 for Spring). If student misses COR deadline, no county payment, student on the hook. If not on college invoice, county doesn't pay.

We've been in communication with everyone.