

April 3, 1991

LB 254

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Moore, followed by Senator Robinson.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President, if Senator Robinson would yield to a question, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Robinson, do you yield?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Robinson, just so I'm clear on what exactly your amendment does. We basically say from the effective date of this act any present employee could go, under 50 years of age, could go once in the next four years and that was paid by the state. Correct?

SENATOR ROBINSON: That's correct.

SENATOR MOORE: And any new employee, the old language in the bill states any new employee can go once within the first 12 months...

SENATOR ROBINSON: That's correct.

SENATOR MOORE: ...and it's paid for by the state.

SENATOR ROBINSON: That's correct.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay. I rise to support Senator Robinson's amendment. I think it's a common sense approach dealing with the problem because I agree with Senator Haberman that it is wise and prudent for the state to encourage our state employees to understand their pension benefits, understand that, particularly in a defined contribution plan, you have some decisions as an employee that you can make that will impact your eventual retirement earnings, and so it's wise to have state employees understand that. As I mentioned on General File on this bill, I had trouble with the fact that the state, by passing this bill in its original form, was basically saying every four years you can go to this seminar. I just think, you know, it's wise to encourage it, but how much do you have to encourage it is the question I have. I think with Senator Robinson's amendment you struck a proper compromise by saying, you know, the first time, if you're 25 years old or whatever, I mean, if you're 25 years old and you go to work for the State of