

February 17, 1993 LB 363

Community College in Norfolk and their instructor. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. We will pass over LB 410. LB 363.

CLERK: LB 363, a bill introduced by Senator Horgan. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to the Retirement Committee, advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Retirement Committee, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. LB 363 is a cleanup bill for the judges retirement system. And the committee amendment is the E clause so that it can be enacted immediately. Let me just briefly explain to you what 363 does. Last year, in 1992, the Legislature, in LB 682 and 672, increased the benefits for judges, increased their factor and some other benefits for the judges. Part of that arrangement called for the judges to contribute to the system 20 years. And prior to that time the judges had been required to contribute to the system for 18 years. So part of the deal of increasing their factor for retirement and reducing the number of years for their average, to calculate their retirement, we require judges to contribute two additional years into the system before they can become fully vested. For those judges who had served already over 20 years, they were allowed to buy back into the system to pick up those two extra years so that they could become fully funded. What we skipped, last year, were those judges who had more than 18 years, but less than 20 years, and therefore there's a window of judges, 23 judges, as a matter of fact, who were left out of the opportunity and have no way of buying back the additional years, other than working two additional years. So what LB 363 does is says for those 23 judges who were left out of the system and don't have the opportunity, due to a quirk, in the fact that they've worked 18 years but they haven't worked the 20, to allow them the opportunity to buy those two additional years, so that they, too, can become fully vested in the system. The committee amendment is the E clause to allow that to happen immediately. And the fiscal note, I'm happy to tell you, that there is not one because it's fully funded by the retirement system. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Does anyone wish to