

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...we're going to reach into our abilities to fund things and pay for this. Early retirement is a trap that as a general rule we have to vary from for good reason. Is there a good reason to give early retirement for public safety officials? Yes, but 55 is a reasonable age, given the rest of the ages that we use in Nebraska. Senator Horgan pointed out that our standards, if measured against other states, could drop to 50. We should not measure ourselves against other state retirement programs, many of which are in trouble. One of the reasons we have relatively good financing in this state and our budgets are as easy, if I can use that word to deal with, is because we have not spent ourselves into retirement plan problems like many other states have. Do not use other states as the yardstick.

SENATOR HALL: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: Use the yardstick of other public officials in this state, other public employees and other safety officials as the standard. We are all right where we are. I would suggest that we reject this amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wesely, your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I would echo Senator Landis' comments. I think he did a good job of summarizing some of the concerns some of us have. You know timing is everything and I understand, I have to plead guilty to having a poorly timed series of amendments a couple of weeks ago, but I think here in the waning hours of the chance to amend I would argue first off we're not amending on Select File, we're amending on Final Reading and second off, if we find an error if there is a problem, we don't have the option after midnight tomorrow night to do something about it. Amendments we adopted a couple of weeks ago, if there were problems and we did find one, we had a chance to pull back and correct. We don't have that luxury now. We're running out of time and I'm worried about jeopardizing Senator Day's original bill. There is a time and a place where we can address the state patrol's concerns. They would like to have early retirement. In fact, the study of their system found that that wasn't the problem so much as the