

in with an alternative. Interestingly enough, the alternative that they provide as I read it, and the only description I have seen is about four sentences, not an extensive plan, but at least a little outline, interestingly enough what they propose provides the same type of benefit that Senator Rumery is saying should be available, and the reason is that that is a standard principle of retirement, that you should get the money you are forced to contribute plus interest when you leave, and after a certain number of years of service you should have an option of gaining a percentage of vested right in a percentage of the retirement based on your years of service. Some cities have trouble. Killing 387 is not going to solve that problem. I question the sincerity of the League of Municipalities on their study because they had plenty of opportunity to do this. Even so, a new retirement plan does not solve the unfunded liability question. These are legal obligations that they have accrued. Norfolk has to pay the benefits that have been promised. You can't change that.

PRESIDENT: Half a minute.

SENATOR FOWLER: So I would suggest that the League of Municipalities and the cities that are concerned about this go with 387 with the amendment that would remove for one year the lid so that they could catch up and start providing the contributions that they should have. But please don't penalize police and fire across the state in cities that have sound retirement systems because a few communities were indifferent to the needs of their financial situation. I would definitely oppose killing 387. It is ironic. This is the smallest retirement bill in terms of impact, and I think the League of Municipalities' attitude is not going to be constructive in trying to solve the retirement problems that their own cities have created.

PRESIDENT: My timing shows that we have had 30 minutes on this bill, and the Speaker has ordered 30 minutes on a bill, and unless someone wants to alter the Speaker's agenda this morning, I think we will go on to the next bill at this point and just leave us right where we are. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I think....I would ask that we might as well get the issue resolved, that we have a vote....

PRESIDENT: But we have several....we can't get it resolved, it would take another half hour to resolve it because we have got several speakers just on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, I can remember when you were presiding