

SENATOR WESELY: They don't have that choice now. They just have to convert into the state plan, is that...

SENATOR WITHEM: My understanding that some exceptions have been made, but the statute does not technically allow for that choice to be made.

SENATOR WESELY: If they stay in the school plan, which is defined benefit plan with defined contributions, does that mean then that under this amendment they would have to follow exactly what everybody else in the School Retirement Plan would have to follow in terms of percent of their salary and the contribution by the state?

SENATOR WITHEM: Right.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. Do you see any problem with the fact that as a state employee they would have a different contribution level for themselves in the state than other state employees would have under the state plan? Is that not a problem?

SENATOR WITHEM: I think for the limited number of people that are...were involved in this particular transfer, no I don't think it would be a problem.

SENATOR WESELY: We're talking a handful of people probably at most?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, we really are.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, it's just the juxtaposition. These are not compatible meshing plans, they are very different plans. But, you know, I guess my first reaction is I don't know why we can't be a little flexible. But I just want to get, for the record, exactly how we'd work that out. Appreciate that.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, did you wish to speak now?

SENATOR ABOUD: No.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Withem, did you wish to close on your