

only eventually, eventually you end up making appropriations. And it seems to me that the better public policy as we make these improvements in retirement systems which are desirable and necessary that the funding not be deferred, that the funding be provided that is necessary or is anticipated to be necessary to keep it actuarially sound. It's...but the total bill for this program is estimated by the actuaries to be \$2 million and, yes, \$2 million could, obviously, be absorbed in 8 million. But the point is that we went from 12 to 8 two years ago at this time and the only reduction was because of earnings, were less successful, and for those reasons I think...Senator Haberman, I'm not trying to disturb the bill, I think I will file the A bill and then the Legislature can make a very deliberate decision not to pass the A bill and that's the only way I can think of to make a positive approach to a determination of whether or not this necessary and desirable retirement benefit should be funded straight up or whether we want to use a reserve and further deplete it and then at some point in the future have to provide the funding in any event. It's for those reasons and not an attempt to do anything more than provide the body the opportunity to make a direct funding decision as to how they want to fund this, I perhaps will drop in the A bill and then if the Legislature chooses not to enact it, that's fine, but at least that way we can address the issue of funding in a positive way by either declining to put in the money or by providing the funding and therefore not in any way affecting the actuary soundness of the rest of the retirement system.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Any closing, Senator Haberman?

SENATOR HABERMAN: I just move for the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall LB 137 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 137.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 137 is advanced. Senator Korshoj has some visitors in our north balcony. From Blair Elementary in Blair, Nebraska we have 50 fourth graders with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're pleased to have you. And Senator Lowell Johnson has 17 eighth