

Nelson, followed by Senator Wesely and Schellpeper.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, first a question of Senator Haberman.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman, would you respond?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, I do.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Do you have available for us what the average retirement benefit is, currently the patrol that are retiring? I have to just strictly go by memory right now.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I cannot tell you that, however, I can inform you of this, Senator Nelson. Based on last year's salaries, the state saves \$760,000 by not having to pay the social security tax for patrol officers. That is...the bill has a \$570,000 fiscal note, so the state is still saving 60 or 70 thousand.

SENATOR NELSON: Okay, you're on my time. I have some very, very great reservations about this bill. Once we open the door up, we have one retirement bill right after the other one. We have a large one coming in in LB 1140. If I recall, and this is strictly from memory, the patrol retirement was somewhere in the neighborhood, and this is memory, 25,000, 26,000, 27,000 a couple of years ago, or the salary was that. So we're asking for 75 percent, even \$2,000 a month. I think there was a 3 percent COLA increase. We were told when we passed the retirement bill for the older retirees, a few years ago, that the ones in 1984 and beyond we didn't need to worry about their retirement, that they were being taken care of. I also have a little problem in changing from 50 to 75 percent for the widows in this particular case. When I take social security, railroad retirement, teachers' pensions and so on and so forth, I think we're opening up the door in this respect considerably, and then again being able to retire at an age below 55 years. This all accumulates and all counts up. I happen to know that many, many of them are in the physical condition and so on, can go out and get another job. I agree, they do not get social security, but a good share of them, I think, their wives are working or have worked, and that way it allows them Medicare also. So, I, for myself, am going to have to get a few more figures before I can support again opening up additional retirement, because we have, down the line then we have the judges, we gave it to the school teachers, we have, I think, LB 1140, and this is...I would like