

certainly have here is simply the precedent of probably, not necessarily for the first time, but it would be very, very unusual, we've already made that decision, for the body to recognize a line-item in the budget provisions for a merit pay increases. I guess I would urge the body to sustain the veto. I know Senator Warner mentioned that it would be his recommendation not to grant additional merit increases. But, you know, that's a management decision the Executive Board can make, and if there would be some room for something less than 5 percent, even 3 percent, you could do that with existing funds, treating our employees like everybody else, but because of vacancy savings, or whatever, we would have some additional ability to do that. I think that would be the preferred method as opposed to overriding the veto. With that I would urge the body sustain the veto.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Schimek. I don't see Senator Schimek. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Madam President...Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Debate has ceased. Senator Chambers, would you like to close on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I understand what Senator Moore is saying. And during my discussion, Senator Moore, I said we had imposed this on ourselves. But we should keep in mind that the Executive Board, rather, Senator Moore, than changing the pay plan without a study at this time, took a vote to allow this merit pay. And we were successful in having the money added to the budget to do it. So there has, in effect, been an interim policy change implemented by the Executive Board. And it was done in that fashion so that there would be time for a full-fledged study of our whole employment system for those who work for the Legislature. On the one hand, how can it be argued that the Executive Board is the one to make a policy decision, then when the Executive Board has made such a policy decision, and the