

January 15, 1992 LB 682

Hefner, is contributed to the fund.

SENATOR HEFNER: Six percent.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes.

SENATOR HEFNER: And then does the state match this or...

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, the state makes no matching contribution. The only other contribution is, as I mentioned, the \$1.00 from a court cost.

SENATOR HEFNER: One dollar, and what percentage of the judge's salary is that? Do you...?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I believe that amounts to about an equal amount of the 6 percent.

SENATOR HEFNER: About 6 percent.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I think so.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. Did you hear Senator Haberman make his statement that some of these judges would be getting over \$300,000 a year in years to come.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I heard that and I am not very good at mathematics but I can tell you that I don't think that is going to happen because there is only one more scheduled 7 percent pay raise that the judges can look forward to and this Legislature would have to enact another bill to raise judges' salaries and, of course, if they did that, then the retirement benefits would escalate but the 7 percent raise that is forthcoming is the last one that is provided for statutorily. That it is not an automatic 7 percent per year. And so we have to raise those salaries on this floor as you know. You've helped in the past. So that unless someone brings in a bill and does that, this would be the maximum amount that could be earned plus 7 percent.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, how much does a judge get when he retires and is it a certain percent of his salary?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, let me just give you the number here. At the present salary if a judge were to retire with a four year average, which is the present law, they would receive \$41,491.