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with retirement legislation. This rule is essentially an "oops" rule. It will hopefully prevent this body, or assist this body in avoiding unexpected costs in retirement bills. Now unexpected costs in retirement bills can be substantial. They have long-term effects, and sometimes we have unintended effects. With retirement bills if we have unintended effects, we cannot go back and do it over again. If we have vested retirement benefits, we can't take them away. It behooves us to know, with a considerable amount of precision, what we are doing when we do it and how much it is going to cost. And that is the thrust of this proposal, how much is a bill going to cost? You'll see that the first part of the amendment requires, starting with the 1997 legislative session, that any bill introduced in this body concerning the structure of the retirement systems for benefits, or affecting the funding status would require an actuarial study before it is introduced, before it is introduced. The second part of the amendment says, in essence, that if there were any changes in the proposal that was introduced that we will not adopt that bill until we again have a full actuarial study to determine what the cost of the proposal is. Part (c) is simply a mechanism for assuring that we have the funds to conduct the actuarial studies that I believe are required and certainly if we adopt this rule would absolutely be required for bill introduction or for amendments as we go through the process. Now, the bill further restricts the introduction of retirement bills to the 90 day session. I believe that is appropriate because if we have a complex actuarial study that is necessary for a piece of legislation, that needs to be done over the summer. Over the summers the actuary each year makes an evaluation of the system. They could at that time evaluate potential changes in the system and we could come back in the short session. That does not mean that we could not pass a piece of retirement legislation in the 90 day session, we could, but if we didn't have the actuarial studies in place it would be carried over into the short session. I'm unwilling to try to scramble and do actuarial studies in the short session so basically we're going to ask you to restrict your introduction of retirement bills to the long session. I hope that's enough of an explanation to start the discussion if there's going to be any discussion of this proposed amendment to the rules. If any of you have any questions we'll be happy to try to respond to them.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler.