

special provision. And, in fact, when you become a judge, you immediately become eligible in their plan. What this bill does is provide for those persons who have had other government service and go to work for the county, the state, a school or the State Patrol to bring with them those prior years of service for a very special purpose. And that very special purpose is to allow them to become vested in the program or eligible to contribute to the program, eligible to contribute or vested for benefits. One thing I want to make clear is that this bill does not affect future benefits, except to the extent it makes some people eligible for benefits. The benefit that they would ultimately receive is going to be calculated exactly as it is now under the current statutes. This does not change the ultimate benefit they might receive. It gives them an opportunity to receive a benefit that they could not otherwise now receive. Now, I think that's important because we have some folks who come from a prior government job and may, for example, come into state service. I think this is perhaps more common in state service, although it can have application in other circumstances. If they come into state service and expect to be here for only three years, they will not become vested in the system. They might have had 15 years of service for a city, for example, come to state government for only 3 years and be unable to vest in the state plan because they weren't here 5 years. Now, because they didn't vest, when they terminate the employer contributions are forfeited, they come back to the state, forfeited. This would allow those people who came from that city plan to the state plan to elect the use of their prior governmental service so they could begin making contributions earlier, and when they left on that third year they would be eligible for a future benefit. Now, in that example, that future benefit was going to be deferred to age 55, unless they're already age 55, of course, but it does make them eligible for a benefit.

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: And it does reduce a revenue source, if you will, for the State of Nebraska, and that is the forfeitures that occur in these plans. In other words, people leave before they're vested, they forfeit back to the State of Nebraska the employer contributions. Now, that impact, you'll see a fiscal note that indicates that that impact might be as much as 741,000 plus dollars. First of all, we don't think that's accurate. We had a bill the other day that deals with governmental...the U.S.