

for, if they need answers, look for them themselves on their own time, and I am really not in favor of us offering more opportunities and paid for by their employers to, which in many instances is us, to go and find out about their retirement program. So that is why I voted against the bill. And also we had the NSEA come in at that time and was against the bill because they wanted more time off paid, from what I understand from their testimony. So I would suspect that there will be an amendment proposed at some time to offer that on this bill, and that is a decision you will have to make at that time, but I did want to explain my no vote. Thank you.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Witek. Anyone else who wishes to discuss LB 369. Seeing none, Senator Wickersham to close.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I will try to be brief. A couple of questions were raised, and I am afraid I was stammering around and didn't give an adequate answer. I will try to respond more fully to those on my own time. Senator Robinson, about 20 to 30 percent of the people who are eligible currently participate in the planning after age 50, and, Senator Pirsch, on page 4 of the fiscal note, there is a notation that \$13 is collected from every person who attends, and that is the source of the \$4,160. Senator Witek's comments might be appropriate if you are a self-employed person, then you are totally responsible for your own retirement plan and program. Even if you do that, I doubt that you do that on Saturdays and Sundays. There aren't that many people to talk to you, except insurance agents, who might be willing to come to your house. But people who have plans that are administered by large companies or others who define the parameters of those plans always, in my experience, feel a responsibility to explain the provisions of those plans and to make sure that the employees who are affected by those plans but have no say, literally, in how they are constructed do have an understanding of the plans and are able to participate in the plan at a level that is appropriate for their own well being and the provision for their retirement ages. I hope that the bill meets those reconsiderations for the retirement systems that are our responsibility, and I would ask your vote in support of the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING