

maximum set on our salary benefits in the Constitution, so any combination cannot go beyond \$12,000 a year. And that's why we cannot put in place a pension program. We cannot get insurance or any of those things. And, in fact,...oh, go ahead, I don't want to take all of your time.

SENATOR WITEK: Okay, you already gave your...these are all the programs that we're opening ourselves out to and it says, are authorized to participate. Maybe you already explained, this authorization, is that to participate with us paying for them? We can already do that, can't we?

SENATOR CHAMPERS: Yes. What we would do is participate on the same basis as other...

SENATOR WITEK: So they'd pay for us.

SENATOR CHAMPERS: ...right, other state officials.

SENATOR WITEK: Well, you know, I guess when I first came in here I was opposed to the salary increase for legislators in my committee, and then I...then I started getting more involved in politics. In talking to the county officials in our county and the city council, they have retirement, health benefits, tremendous salaries for one day a week work, so I guess I appreciate your having the courage to bring this in to have us at least discuss it on the floor of the Legislature. Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMPERS: Thank you, Senator Witek Chambers.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator, that's one thing I wanted to talk to you about. (Laughter.) I think once that law passes, our common law marriage is over, completely. I don't want to make a mention of it anywhere, please.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I'll be the best man, if that's okay. (Laughter.) Senator Chambers, I really like your idea but I don't think it's going to sell to the voters. I mean, that sounds great and I support it, but I think health insurance will probably be acceptable. I think they'll say, yes, that's something we should get. Retirement, I think, is very, very questionable. I just, I really have a hard time going back to my district, Senator, and saying that I am