

amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Discussion on the committee amendments to LB 394. There is an amendment...there is an amendment to the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, there is a series of amendments. One to the committee amendments, Senator Withem would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1841. (See page 1911 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, AM1841 deals with the judges pay raise issue. What this amendment does is it provides what we call safety net language. It is...you will find it in the Journal on page 1911. It is just being flashed up on the board. This is what we call safety net language. This is the long, torturous sort of debate that we have had on the floor on the issue of the judges pay raise. You will see it addressed in LB 394. You will also see it addressed yet this afternoon in LB 189. It has been my desire in putting the agenda together to have the debate only once, but we're kind of getting to the point...and for that reason, I kept 394 off of the agenda until the Legislature had made a policy decision on the pay raise issue. But 394 needs to go along with the other budget bills, so I'm putting it on the agenda here today on a special order circumstance so it can catch up with the rest of the budget proposals, hopefully, maybe even, Senator Wehrbein, to pass LB 392, but that doesn't seem to be zipping right along too quickly. And this amendment is safety net language. Currently, the committee amendments and LB 394 calls for giving the judiciary a pay increase through the appropriations process. I do not agree with that procedurally. I do agree, and am supportive, I think I've always voted in favor of salary increase for the judges when they have come before the Legislature, but I do not believe in doing it simply through the appropriations process. Historically in the Legislature, we have introduced bills to change the salary. The salary exists in statute, Section 24-201.01. Legislatively, legally places in statute the salary of the Justice of the Supreme Court and the methodology for calculating the salaries of all of the other judges. I think that process ought to continue. When we get to LB 189, we'll have an opportunity to debate what the appropriate salary will be for the judges, along