

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Withem voting yes. Senator Pirsch voting yes. Senator Brashear voting yes. Senator Vrtiska voting yes. Senator Janssen voting yes.

SENATOR HALL: The house is under call. All members please return to the Chamber and record your presence. The house is under call. We're voting on ceasing debate.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Lynch voting yes.

SENATOR HALL: Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SENATOR HALL: Debate is ceased. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, all this amendment is doing is following the sound retirement principles in the sense that it's following the...what we do in most cases and that is that all early retirement benefits should be based on actuarial equivalence. That's the language that was in the...that was operative for OPS in the past. That language is being taken out and a flat 3 percent is being put in which reduces the reduction, the annual reduction from around 6 percent to 3 percent. It's a big dollar item and so it would seem to me that what we ought to do is follow the language that has been set forth by us as sound planning language and abide by that. I can see no reason why we should depart from actuarial equivalence. And again, the fact that you are reducing it for a potential retired employee from a 6 percent reduction to a 3 percent reduction for that kind of early retirement before they haven't met the qualifications of full benefit requirement, the effect of that will be to encourage even more early retirement; and at least from my perspective again, that's not what we should be encouraging. So I would ask for your support on this amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the close on the Beutler amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 7 ayes, 17 nays on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.