

May 22, 1995

LB 275, 275A, 369, 701

SPEAKER WITHEM: The bill is not returned. Is there anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Nothing further on this at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The bill will be laid over. I assume LB 275A, Senator Pedersen, needs to be laid over also. LB 369.

CLERK: Mr. President, 369 on Final Reading. Senator Wickersham would move to return the bill for specific amendment, AM2377.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment has not been printed in the Journal. It was distributed to you this morning. As the Clerk indicated, it is 2377, should be on your desk. It is rather a thick one. It is not thick because it does a lot. It is thick because it affects a number of plans. But be that as it may, I'll describe to you what it does, and I hope that you will agree to adopt it. First, I should note that this amendment actually saves money. Should I repeat that a couple of times, saves money. The first fiscal year this will reduce a liability, which we would otherwise have, to the trooper's retirement fund of \$278,181. The second year it will save \$156,127; and over a period of 14 years, it is expected to save us approximately \$2.3 million. Maybe I should stop. It does that by increasing, effective June 30th of 1996, the contribution rate in the State Patrol retirement plan from 10 percent to 11 percent. Now it does not completely eliminate the unfunded liability we have in the Patrol retirement system, but it does, I believe, address the cost that has been accumulated in that plan due to the early retirement benefits that were passed two years ago, and at that time the troopers made a commitment to pay their share of the cost of that early retirement benefit. This increase in their contribution rate I believe does that. The other...that was, and, incidentally, this bill, this amendment was in general form, LB 701. When it was in LB 701, it was designed to take effect October 1st. We are bringing it to you as an amendment to take effect June 30th of 1996. That largely, over the life of the contributions, turns out to be a wash. So it doesn't really make a lot of difference to us whether it is October 1st or June 30th. It is being brought to you now as June 30th of 1996, rather than October 1st of 1995, as it appeared in your bill books. There are two additional elements in the amendment that I would call