

for university people because state employees are getting 3 percent, was that the rationale given by the Governor if you read any...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Do you mean it is funded at 3 percent?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, and the 4, 4, 3 1/2 was negotiated or authorized and it was funded at the 3 percent level generally, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: In most agencies, right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But in this bill we are fully funding?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, that's because the Legislature did it, yes. I'd have to...I'd have to...I have to admit, you caught me off guard,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, I'm sorry.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...I have to look at his veto message to see if that was done to the judges. I can't remember.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, and I won't hold you to what you said because I know we're kind of catching you off guard but Senator Withem had time to get prepared because he knew, oh, but he was relying on Senator Wehrbein. I am going to listen to what the rest of you have to say who might speak on this issue, and I am not going to withdraw this motion. I want a vote on it, and I think we ought to strike this language from the bill. And what I will say, if this language is stricken, at least some of the other amendments will go away, at least one other one, because it relates to the same area. But, anyway, the first part of this series of amendments would strike Section 1 of the bill and that relates to the salary increase for judges. I hope you'll notice that I haven't talked about anything other than the merits of the amendment as I see it, the rationale for it, and I am going to listen to the discussion and see if some of you all can persuade me that maybe I am taking the wrong approach to this.