

LB 1075. And LB 986 is not purely an administrative bill, but it is a compliance bill. (LB) 986 is a bill designed to allow our systems to comply with federal law concerning the buy back of benefits if you have been in the military service. A federal law was passed in 1994, gave us two years to conform our systems. It essentially provides that if you're in the military service and you were employed in one of our plans, if you were employed in a position that was covered by one of our plans when you're out of the military service you can come back and you can buy back your benefits at the rate that you would have contributed if you had remained an employee. The employer has to contribute the employer's share. But we really have no choice but to amend our plans to allow conformity with the federal law. This does have some potential cost to the administrators of the plan, schools, state, but I cannot tell you what the potential cost is because we don't know how many people are going to participate in military service and then come back and buy into our systems. All I can tell you is that we need to do it to conform to federal law. The other provision is substantive as far as the administration of the systems is concerned. It changes the obligations of the Attorney General with regard to the systems. The current statutory provision says that the Attorney General is counsel for, or is legal advisor to the board, PERB. We're simply deleting that provision so that the Attorney General is no longer legal advisor to the board. And then we're adding to the board duty sections a requirement that they hire an attorney to advise them concerning the administration of the system. Now, the Attorney General will continue to represent the board in matters that would be litigated, et cetera. But the board will be given the affirmative duty to hire an attorney, in-house, to advise them about the administration of the system. And that cost was already in the A bill that has been advanced to catch up with 847. So this amendment, partially substantive, something we have a choice about, part of it we really don't have any choice about. But if you have questions, I'll be happy to try to respond.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. For discussion on the Wickersham amendment, Senators Maurstad, Beutler, and Abboud. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support amendment 2869 Senator Wickersham has brought to us. One of the