

the cost of the litigation, after all, it is an agency of this state that has created the issue in the first place. I think Senator Witek has indicated that she will present, if you will, the other side of the story. I hope that you listen carefully to her as I hope you have listened to this explanation and as I hope that you have read the materials that we have presented. This is not an easy issue. There are uncertainties which ever choice we make.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Would like to, prior to moving to the next item of business on this resolution, like to introduce guests of Senator Schrock. Under the north balcony we have his father with us here today, Sam Schrock from Holdrege. And Senator Schrock also has 29 eighth graders in the north balcony from Arapahoe Public Schools with their teachers. Would all of you stand and be recognized please. Mr. Clerk, I understand there is an amendment filed.

CLERK: Senator Witek would move to amend, Mr. President. (See AM4267 on page 1944 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Speaker, members of the Legislature, this issue has been going on within the Retirement Committee for almost a year. When we closed up the end of last year we were first aware of it and a lot of it going on through the interim. I wish we had more time to...to get people up to speed because it is a very complicated issue, but what we can do at this time is rely on the experts that have been called in to give us an opinion on what has occurred here within the retirement systems in the state of Nebraska and rely on their opinions. The issue involves allowing individuals into the retirement system that statutorily were not allowed to be there. It occurred over quite some length of time. It was not discovered, as I understand it, till just recently, last year. And every attempt has been made at this time to correct that, to look over what has been happening. I think you'll have some of the information from the PERB Board directly, the Retirement Board directly, telling you what they are doing to...to work through this issue. There's no doubt in anyone's mind, and Senator Wickersham and I do not disagree, that...that a mistake was made. In how to correct that mistake, or whether we need...what length we need to go to to correct that mistake is where the differences lie