

either, but, at the moment, my concern, Senator, is the noncertificated employees and the rights that I believe they have in the system.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yeah, and that is my concern also and I appreciate the clarification that that portion of the committee amendment...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...is not a part of the.... Can I ask you then, do you think there is a likelihood, from your study of the issue, that there would...there was an error or an omission or malfeasance by the board?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: You can characterize the actions however you wish. The statutes are very clear, and the system was not administered in accordance with the statutes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Can I interpret that as a yes? In your opinion, I am just...in your opinion?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I...it happened a long time ago. We have not gone out and taken depositions. We didn't interview people. The statutes are clear.

SENATOR WILL: Time. Senator Wickersham, your light is next.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to oppose Senator Witek's amendment. I understand the reason that she filed it. I think it is really extraneous to our discussion in terms of whether or not something should be done by the Legislature to begin to address this issue. But I do want to make a couple of comments about matters that have been raised. One, the potential cost of the litigation, Mr. Grasz testified in the committee, and I will read to you. It says, while it is not possible to accurately predict the cost, our best estimate is the high five figure, high five figure to low six figure range, but then he goes on, perhaps a million dollars. Well, if any of you have your pencils out, there is a considerable leap between the low five figures and perhaps a million dollars. They don't know, neither do I. One thing I would suggest to you is that if you want to make this expensive litigation, you can, but if you want to deal with it reasonably and economically, it