

the long run, is the one that has to make the decision, and I feel like, Legislature, we are the client. We have to make the decision and decide how to resolve this problem. Over the years, the Public Employees Retirement Board has not been a really, what I think of as a strong board. There are individuals on it and now that are very strong and try to do the right thing, but what I...I think the PERB Board should have made this decision. They did not. So it's up to us to do that. The other thing that if we just pass some little bill and think, well, that'll take care of it, I doubt that very much that that will take care of it. There will be repercussions as we go along. I just don't think we can do that. I have a group of people in my district and in Lincoln who are custodians and other noncertificated employees in the school system who had an opportunity to come in, and they didn't always...some of them just were not encouraged way, way back to join the retirement system. Over the years, they have tried several times to get legislation that would allow them to buy back those years that they lost. We never can get that bill in the shape that we feel it would really work because there are some constitutional problems.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: So you have to be careful as you go along to be really sure that you don't mess up the system and/or cause the employee a problem that they don't need. This happened back in the late seventies, early eighties, I think. In the middle eighties, they allowed people to come in which they should not have, and, yes, it has been investigated. It has been investigated. I don't believe that...I think we know as much as we can know at the moment, and I do think there is a problem, so I urge you not to vote for the Witek amendment, but support LR 343. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Will, members of the Legislature, with respect to the Witek amendment, I believe I cannot support that because I don't think it effectuates any change or actually changes the context of the resolution, and only adds confusion to the whereases because it is somewhat contradictory to the other whereases. But that aside, I, too, am troubled by this, and I can readily see why the committee found it so troublesome,