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LR 4

be here when that pay raise would go into effect. You may not be here. And that's good. I think we can talk about this in a nonself-interest kind of setting, whereby we're talking about the future, we're talking about the next Legislature and the Legislature on after that. I just had passed out some information which is pretty recent. And if you'll look at it, it shows that pay raises occurred in 21 or in 18 states this session. It is a perennial problem for every state. The article does mention that 20 states...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...now use the compensation commission method. And some aren't as active using that as others. There's one other method that is mentioned in this article which I think is not a bad idea either, and that is the method that Massachusetts chose, and that is, in 1998, the voters passed a constitutional amendment that gives lawmakers an automatic increase every two years that is equal to the increase in the median household income. You might...I mean, an automatic increase or an increase that's indexed as a percentage of current salary is another method that we've talked about in here. But I would be supportive, very supportive, of doing something this year, because it won't go onto the ballot until next November. So thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Those wishing to speak on the advancement of LR 4CA are Senators Brown, Crosby, Senator Don Pederson, Senator Kristensen, and Senator Coordsen. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I support both the proposed amendments. I think I support the commission concept, because it allows us to have a little bit of an external group that can look at it on an ongoing basis, and I do think that that is a good idea. I have a little bit different perspective than some of the other people who've spoken. And I do agree absolutely that salaries are related to people's ability to serve, but I also think that we need to look at...and that brings us back to the issue of whether we have adequate diversity in the body if we cannot attract people who may not be able to serve at the level that we're being paid