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you're recognized.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Landis, I want to follow up what Senator Synowiecki was just asking because it was the direction that my thoughts were going also. And I want to clarify a little bit what your conversation was. Would it be possible, and I honestly don't know the answer to this, I'm just asking would it be possible to use outside funds and not use state general funds for these salary increases if it were part of the negotiation?

SENATOR LANDIS: What our current agreement now is is a step plan.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: All right.

SENATOR LANDIS: Our current agreement does not permit merit, and it does...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right, I understand all that.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...not permit bonuses. Okay.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Correct.

SENATOR LANDIS: If you go back and negotiate new rules, my guess is you could get to almost any end that the new agreement would reach. I've got to say as I listen to this, the discussion between your notion, which is perhaps the use of private funds or a different source of funds rather than general funds, broadens what I understand Senator Beutler's notion to be which is, can't you step in and change the salary of these employees?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I believe that...

SENATOR LANDIS: But (interruption) agreement. I mean is that you could probably do it by an agreement.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I believe that you can do what Senator Beutler was suggesting. I believe it has been done on different