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court fees that have not been raised for quite awhile. It solves some issues that we need in terms of funding the retirement. I just wanted to let the body know that there will be future gaps in the future, just as there's going to be in others, as long as the stock market doesn't perform. If you look at one of the pink sheets...and I notice Senator Stuhr handed out two. Is that pink, Senator? What do you call that color? I'm not very good at...but it does show that we've had a free ride, if you will, when the stock market was performing very well. And there will be reality hitting us here in a year. It's already hit this year. But this is going to be a fact of life. And I just wanted to bring that out to...call that to your attention, so that you know where we're headed. Once again, I support this amendment. I believe it's a reasonable compromise. And we are better served by passing this than we would be in another position of having to general fund...of having General Fund support for many of these that are now going to be supplied by the court fees. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Brashear, if I could just ask a couple of questions. I'm trying to digest all this information. And I understand that I am not digesting it all. But the early retirement portion of the bill is being added for what reason?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Brashear, will you respond?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: One practical reason, Senator...three reasons actually, Senator Beutler. Just so we get it out on the record, I happen to be one of those who subscribes to a line of cases that I believe indicate that if you do not provide a benefit you cannot increase the contribution, the general case law stating that you cannot, in derogation of an employee's rights, charge them more and give them less. That's the general logic of it. So I have urged that there needs to be a consideration of benefit enhancements. That's one. Two, in a theoretical sense, to the extent that judges reach a point where they believe they ought to be off the bench and they ought to be retired, I think it's in the interest of justice that we make it possible for them to do so. We've made early retirement possible, but