

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 6, 2003

LB 320

there's a very punitive discount that is charged for every year prior to age 65, such that no judge, as a practical matter, can consider it, because they actually lose part of their contribution. It's simply not economically viable. So I think, theoretically, early retirements for those who opt to take them are in the interest of justice, because people who are tired, fatigued, exhausted, or otherwise have lost interest ought to leave the bench. And third, because there is some active interest among the judiciary in the availability of early retirement. I've tried to be as responsive as I can be.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. In your amendment, there is that piece, there is the piece with respect to spouses.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is there an additional piece now? I'm...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: No. Those are the only two. And the spousal benefit is deferred until 2005. And that was a result of intense negotiation with regard to providing immediate increased contribution, but deferral of benefit.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And over and above what Senator Stuhr has provided, in terms of dollar increases to the court fees, how much does your amendment increase it, increase...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: My increase takes it from \$1 to \$5. Senator Stuhr was proposing \$1 to \$4, I believe.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So your amendment is adding one more dollar?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: One more dollar, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and that one more dollar is going to what purpose then?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, all of the court fees, at least in our dialogue and discussions, we have considered all of the court fees to be raising \$1.6 million, which, quote, overfunds or exceeds the worst estimate that we've been given with regard to