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LB 320

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Senator Beutler, let's add some clarity to this, because I think we have an obligation to do that, and it is, again, a confusing issue. But basically what's gone on with the Brashear amendment is...that was adopted on General File is two things. One, it's very clear that there's a deficit in the judges' retirement account of roughly \$700,000.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I can't verify the exact amount...

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and that's correct, but that was in the original committee bill and picked up in the Brashear amendment...

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, just...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...but is not the substance of the...

SENATOR BOURNE: ...go with me for a second.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: As I see the...as I see the bill, the way it is now, there's two elements. One, it's clear that the plan is underfunded, whether that's from, as Senator Chambers mentioned or whoever it was, that maybe the judges didn't contribute enough, or the state didn't, or performance in the market. But the fact is, is that the fund is underfunded to the tune of roughly \$700,000 and we have an obligation, the state has an obligation to make that up. Is that an accurate statement?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's absolutely correct.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. And Senator Brashear's bill has raised the court fees to fund our obligation. Is that accurate as