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February 3, 2005 LB 329

SENATOR STUHR: I'm not sure, Senator McDonald. I do know that we're not creating something new here. We are just recodifying the language to be able to make it clearer. And I think what Senator Synowiecki said, I would certainly add to it that it is actually an opportunity, usually, for the districts to save money in the long run, and that it does come from the General Fund. And whether this is done annually, I'm not sure.

SENATOR McDONALD: So as a teacher is teaching, you know, is this purchased along the way? Or is it waiting until they're ready to retire to purchase this? I guess that's my concern.

SENATOR STUHR: Okay. I...it is provided at the time of retirement. So...and what might be in that fund, as I mentioned before, might be accumulation of sick leave, of days that they have had, and so that is put in this separate fund. Instead of adding it to compensation, it is not allowed to be added to compensation. So that is what forms this separate fund.

SENATOR McDONALD: So what you're saying is that you basically are accumulating benefits, so to speak,...

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR McDONALD: ...as far as sick time.

SENATOR STUHR: Right.

SENATOR McDONALD: And then at time of retirement, that's calculated in dollar figure.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, and is placed in this fund then. And then they can get that upon retirement.

SENATOR McDONALD: Okay. And it has to be at retirement age? If they would retire early, at any point in time when they're ready to retire, they can obtain these funds?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes, at the time of requirement. Yes.

SENATOR McDONALD: Okay. And is there a time that...do we do