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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR JANSSEN: Elaine, you have 23 seconds left. So we'll go to the next speaker. Senator Kopplin.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Senator Janssen and members of the Legislature. Having used early retirement incentives many times in my career, and accepted one on my own retirement, I'd like to tell you, this is a good bill. The idea behind incentives usually comes when you have a teacher or school employee who has been there for a long time. In my particular experience, the board used that you had to be in that employ for 20 years. So you're talking about high-paid individuals. The idea was, okay, they take early retirement, we can replace them with a beginning teacher or someone in that category, and we'll save a bunch of money the next year. It's budgeted for, so I suppose you would have to say, yes, it's figured in your needs. But along with that, you also budget what it's going to cost you for the next teacher the following year. So in a sense, you're saving your district money. In my case, both I used and received compensation, we timed it so that we received our compensation in September following retirement. It no longer affected the retirement formula. But I can see that if a school district decided to pay this in June in one lump sum, it currently could affect retirement payments. That was never our particular choice to do that. It is taxable money as far as the IRS is concerned. Social Security was not...ended up not taking a...coming from that. And that happened because of a lawsuit in some other state, saying that that was not compensation anymore; it was beyond that, it was a payment. It works well. It saves the districts money. And I would encourage you to move this bill forward.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. Appreciate it. Mr. Clerk, announcement.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee will hold an Executive Session under the north balcony at 11:45. That's Education, 11:45, north balcony.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. On with discussion,