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increase any benefits within the retirement plan and/or we didn't increase their pay simultaneous to that. How does this interrelate with what the teachers and school districts did?

SENATOR BOURNE: Excellent question, Senator Synowiecki, and that's why I have some sympathy for the teachers and the school districts and is why I'm bringing this amendment. As Senator Synowiecki mentioned, I think it was a year or two ago the judges' fund was underfunded by, I want to say it was \$500,000 or \$600,000, peanuts compared to \$15 million. We introduced, and I think Senator Beutler would remember this, there was...because he was involved to a certain extent. There was a bill that was introduced. I think it was LB 329. It created an additional contribution from the judges and no corresponding state money. The judges sued and, as Senator Synowiecki mentioned, the federal court put in a temporary restraining order saying the state could not increase the judges' contribution to the plan because it was an unlawful taking. There were some contract issues. I think it was a violation of contract. And basically, the state could not increase their assessment without giving them a corresponding increase in benefits. And the court, again, struck down that additional contribution and, as a result, we are having to pay for the judges' retirement shortfall through our General Funds. Now, I am not sure, but I do believe the teachers could do the same thing, and instead they've decided to step up to the plate, participate, as they have throughout this entire budget crisis, I might add. They're one of the few entities and few organizations that have actually participated. Everybody else fights you tooth and nail; they participate. They realize how integral they are to the system and they participated. They're doing the same today, and I commend them, and I'm simply trying to give them a little help. Is Senator Landis accurate in what he says about this being an expanding of the base? Absolutely right, it is. He has portrayed it accurately. However, this is a narrowly-defined provision in the levy and the budget authority that simply allows them to respond to a \$15 million shortfall that they are not responsible for. I would not carry this amendment if they made this mistake, but they didn't do it and, actually nobody did. It was simply a function of the market turning down. But Senator Synowiecki is exactly right.