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FLOOR DEBATE

February 25, 2005 LB 503

The judges did sue us a year ago and we, as a result, are making up their shortfall through General Fund appropriations.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Bourne. And I can certainly appreciate Senator Raikes' concern and, quite frankly, that needs to be discussed here while we discuss this. But as a member of the Retirement Committee, I think the members need to be fully cognizant of and fully aware that we were on the line, General Funds, state General Funds were on the line for over \$15 million relative to the solvency problems with these...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: ...with the teachers' plan, and it was because of the teachers of the state of Nebraska and the school districts agreeing to participating in the solution to this, to being part of the solution, that their participation saved our General Fund expenditures in excess of \$15 million. And, while I agree with Senator Raikes that...relative to some of the points he was making, I do think that we have to also be aware of the substantial savings in the General Fund expenditures relative to the solvencies of these retirement plans. And if you look at what...how the judges reacted to their not wanting to be a participant in the solution and what the teachers have offered to do, I do believe that we need to be cognizant of our history with...relative to these plans as well. Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Stuhr, on the Bourne amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I do appreciate Senator Bourne bringing this amendment for the discussion, although I realize that this bill actually was introduced in Revenue Committee. A couple things that I wanted to point out and, first of all, yes, we did have the hearing on the rate increase for the school employees and school employers. The Council of School Administrators did come in as a proponent and supported that rate increase. The school boards