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math error, and I want to thank Howard Kensinger from the Fiscal Analyst Office for catching it. Basically, it corrects a miscalculation in the judges' salaries. The salary in the committee amendment read \$123,152, and the correct amount was \$126,846. And again, I want to thank Howard for catching that error. With that, I'd urge your adoption of AM1355.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on AM1355. Open for discussion. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senators Chambers, and Synowiecki. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I stand in support of the committee amendment, and also the amendment that we have before us, and I wanted to just speak a little bit about the court fee increase, which is included in the committee amendment. Based upon the latest actuarial report from the judges retirement system, there is a required actuary contribution requirement of \$644,562. Based upon projections by the actuary, this amount is anticipated to increase over the next few years, with \$857,748 being projected for 2006-2007 fiscal year. Because this court fee increase is spread out over a number of different court filings, the projected increase to the judges retirement system will be approximately \$800,000. This amount will help to blunt the impact from future required actuary contributions that presumably would be paid out of General Fund dollars. Finally, because the judges retirement system is a defined benefit plan, the state is required to fund any actuarial contribution requirement, unless a change is made to the structure of the plan, such as an additional contribution or rate increase. At least in the short term, this rate increase will help to fulfill this requirement. I, too, want to express my thanks to Senator Brashear and Senator Bourne for working on this issue. I also am in support of the salary increase as drafted in the committee amendment. I do believe that we are looking at an increase, as Senator Brashear stated, that coincides with what state employees are receiving, 3 percent the first year, 3.25 percent for the second year. So thank you, and again, thanks for all of those that have worked on this issue, and I give the rest of my time back to the Chair.