

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 19, 2005

LB 348

speak to, perhaps, what they did receive, relative to enhancements in their retirement package?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes. Let me just refresh our memories that current members had a one-time election to increase their rate of contribution from 6 percent to 8 percent, if they had service under 20 years, and from zero--they were contributing nothing--to 4 percent, if they were serving over 20 years. Then those members could...elected this contribution increase...those that elected to have the increase, then, were entitled to the new benefit of a 50 percent joint survival annuity. And all of the new hires, all of the new judges, will not have that choice. They will automatically come in at that higher rate. Does that help define...

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Yeah, thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Stuhr, we have two defined benefit plans, and it's for the judges, in terms of state workers, judges and State Patrol. Now the school employees retirement system is defined benefit, but they're not under the state dime, if you will. Isn't that correct, Senator Stuhr?

SENATOR STUHR: Well, there's some requirement, but actually the local schools make the larger, largest...

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Right.

SENATOR STUHR: ...employer contribution.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Okay. For the two that we have most control over, would you agree we have most control over the judges and the State Patrol system,...

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Senator Stuhr?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: As a percent of pay, in terms of contribution to the plan, the State Patrol system is, as I