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LB 348

we're doing here?

SENATOR STUHR: I...yes, they are not...they are not contributing an additional amount.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: So they're not...they have a retirement program where, as I indicated, you're fully vested if you're a district court judge. You earn in excess...well, not earn, you receive in excess of \$70,000 a year retirement benefit. But under LB 348, we're not requesting any additional contributions from the judiciary to help fortify that plan. Is that right?

SENATOR STUHR: That's correct, because we have always in the past looked at court fees to make up that retirement need, so...

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Okay, thank you, Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. Senator Erdman, on AM1355 to the committee amendments.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and I had followed Senator Synowiecki's comments as he was discussing with Senator Stuhr, a member of the Retirement Committee, and I think there are some obvious realities of the situation that Senator Synowiecki has pointed out. I do have some concerns about the underlying amendment, but I recognize that we're probably not going to go a different direction, and we do have a problem to solve. I think the money that is being appropriated or is being earmarked for the retirement is important for us to do, to ensure that the retirement system is actuarially sound at this point. But I do think that Senator Synowiecki brings up some valid points. The thing that I shared with the Speaker was...he mentioned that the members, the judges, shouldn't have to come to the Legislature with a hat in hand, to ask for a salary increase. As a member of the Retirement Committee, I have never seen the judges come to the Retirement Committee with their hat in their hand. Generally what they do is, they leave the committee telling us what we will and will not do, what we will or will not allow. And so it's been an interesting discussion to learn the process of what the laws require in retirement and different areas, but I do