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additional money out their pocket and we're having the shortfall taken care of through a fee assessment, rather than their own responsibility. After I investigated a little bit, the legal counsel to the Retirement Committee also investigated this, and he helped me, and I am very comfortable that the judges' contribution relative to their salary, and the teachers' and the state employees' plan, relative to their salaries, their contributions relative to their salaries, are fairly fair. I mean, I think the parity is there. The judges' contributions relative to their salary, and the state employees' and the teachers' contributions relative to their salary, I feel, are equal, or relatively are very close thereto. So I am comfortable that what we are doing is right, it makes sense. I understand that some people might have some resentment, given the judges did sue over this issue a couple of years ago, but to be quite honest, the Legislature did the wrong thing by increasing the judges' contributions without a corresponding increase in benefits, and they were entitled to sue. Anyway, I don't know, as it relates to the teachers, why they're doing what they're doing, but I am comfortable that the amount the judges pay out of their own pocket for their retirement is on par with what the other state employees and the teachers are paying out their pocket for their retirement benefits. I'm very comfortable doing what we're doing, and I would urge your adoption of this amendment, and the committee amendment, and the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. On with discussion. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I feel that I need to clarify a little bit the question that Senator Kopplin asked me in regard to the judges, and just share with you. And when we are talking about the judges, we are talking about a much smaller group. We have like 171 judges, and 76 of those judges are paying 8 percent. Thirty-four of those judges are paying the 6 percent; 32 are paying the 4 percent, which means those are the 32 that have served over 20 years, and prior to the bill that we had previously passed, were not paying...were paying zero. And now they are paying 4 percent. Twenty-nine percent are not paying