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why, the judges make a higher salary, their percent increase, of course, would be higher. Listen, we have a lot of state employees, unfortunately, that make the kind of money that judges do, and so, I guess I can't disagree with Senator Synowiecki in some regards. I sense his frustration and, at a certain level, I agree with it, but we do have to fund the retirement shortfall. Senator Synowiecki's amendment simply takes away the raise that I personally feel the judges are entitled to. It does leave, thankfully, it does leave intact the increased fees that will go to fund the retirement shortfall. But I do want to point out that when Senator Synowiecki says that this delays the raise, it does eliminate the raise, and they would have to reintroduce legislation. The Judiciary Committee unanimously voted this bill out, as amended, and I think a 3 percent increase in the first year and a 3.25 percent increase in the second year are fair, given that they have not had an increase since 2002. With that, I personally...I won't vote for Senator Synowiecki's amendment, although I certainly understand his frustration and his comments. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. The next speaker is Senator Don Pederson. Senator Pederson?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I serve on the Appropriations Committee, as you know, with Senator Synowiecki, and I also serve on the Retirement Committee with Senator Synowiecki, and I would just inform you very briefly that when we prepared our budget this year, we prepared it based upon the actions that were going to be taking place by the Judiciary Committee, and we predicated our budget on that basis. And I would ask that we--although I understand where he's coming from--I would ask that we reject this proposal by Senator Synowiecki. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Brashear, you are next to speak.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you. Madam President, members of the