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LR 12

both requesting, in the short term, the dollar amount increase, without the commission idea getting in the way of it, but at the same time putting on the ballot, eventually, that which should be, and is, I think, the real solution to the problem. I mentioned to you that this idea mixes the idea of ethics and the idea of salary. I think that is a natural combination, because these are two things that are very sensitive to people, and these are two things that generally people think the Legislature does not do well at when it has them in their own hands. So what this idea says is basically this. The commission that we establish will have two jobs. The first job will be to fashion...working with the Legislature, fashion a code of ethics for the Legislature. Then, when the code of ethics...if the code of ethics is adopted...the Legislature doesn't have to adopt the code of ethics, but if the code of ethics is adopted, then the Legislature has to hold that code in place for three years, after which time it's free to modify the code of ethics. After the code of ethics is put into place, then the commission's second job is to start setting the salary for the Legislature. And every fourth year, it would recommend again to the Legislature a salary adjustment, and the Legislature wouldn't have to go up to that recommendation, but it could not go over that recommendation. So this is the concept. Again, not getting in the way of what you've done, but suggesting to you that we haven't addressed the real problem, and hoping that you will have the patience and time to look at a real solution to the problem. With that, I would recommend this addition to the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on AM1702, offered by Senator Beutler to LR 12CA. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm going to support Senator Beutler's amendment. I appreciate his work on this question. I voted for the \$21,000 amendment. I don't think that solves our problem at all. I think the problem that we ought to be focusing on is, what is the level of compensation that we need to offer in order to attract the best and the brightest citizens of our state and entice them to step forward and want to serve in this capacity? Twelve thousand dollars I