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SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I think I'm going to rise in opposition to Senator Bourne's amendment and not because it's ill-intentioned or...I think Senator Bourne has good will on trying to accomplish a policy that he thinks should be written in statute. I think we have to think through this and, to be fair with you, I don't know that the Revenue...or the Retirement Committee has had that opportunity. I know that Senator Bourne has had the bill before us and we have discussed it maybe briefly the day that the hearing was held, and that was last year. I've got a couple bills in the committee that I should probably then file on LB 1019 that we haven't discussed either. I think we have to be careful about the policy. Senator Bourne is correct that over the past few years, and I think he used the past 50 years, that when this problem has occurred where the state needed a contribution, then the state has then contributed to the Omaha plan as well. But we currently do that now in a number of areas with different programs and fees that we give to the Omaha district, but they do have a completely different system. And right now I believe the additional contribution by the Omaha Public School District will be \$5.2 million for this next year for their teachers, because the way that their plan is set up is that it's 6.3 percent of pay for the employees, 6.3 percent of pay for the school district, and then the school district makes up the difference. So when they are short, it comes back from the school district, and so that money is going to have to be determined by the school as far as the district goes, not by the actual employees. If we want to talk about fundamental fairness, with all due respect, I do think it affects contribution rates and benefits and other programs, and I think that's why the committee addressed the issue in an interim study, to try to determine whether or not it's fair to have the separate proposals, whether or not the benefits are similar enough that they're adequate for each group, and whether or not it would be more efficient to come up with a single plan for all state employees or for all school employees across the state. But, you know, I don't know that Senator Bourne has ill will. I think he's trying to solve a problem that he believes is going to be in the future, and this has generally been a practice of the state. But I do think that we have to look at this carefully. And again, the fact that the Retirement Committee