

March 10, 1983

LB 223, 281

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Committee amendments are adopted. Now we are on the bill. Will you explain it please, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, you should pay attention to this bill in particular because it is going to be one of the few retirement bills that has a potential to save money for the taxpayer and not cost us more. What this bill does is designate that associate county judges instead of being under the judges retirement system would after the effective date of this act be transferred to the state retirement system. It is an attempt to deal with the problem that was brought to us by Joe Steele from the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court. He felt that this would be a more appropriate retirement plan. Associate county judges under the judges retirement system would receive more benefits than under the state employee retirement system. Those benefits are less, and so by making this transfer, there is actually less benefits for them and thus less cost to the taxpayer but it is felt that that is a fair change to make and that is what the bill is intended to do. There are some things that would improve to a slight degree in benefits. For instance, the surviving spouse of an associate judge would be eligible for death benefits after five years of service rather than ten but it is indicated that is a negligible cost and questions about disability payments would be sent to the PERB board, the Public Employees Retirement Board and again that would not be much of a cost. So this is a bill that would save money in terms of cost in a retirement plan for county associate judges.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any discussion on the bill? If not, the question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the advancement of 223. Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: 223 is advanced. We will go to 281.