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LB 219

a little concern that way but I guess I have more concern about the five years of service where someone could come in at the age of fifty after they have retired from another branch of government or military service and work five years and be eligible for state retirement, and, Senator Fowler, I wonder if you would yield to some questions. Now to have eligibility to join a pension plan, you must have worked one year, is that correct?

SENATOR FOWLER: For the state system I believe it is two years unless we changed it down. Did we change it?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, I think we did...

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes, it used to be two.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...to one year. Okay, so then that is a year of their service though, so supposedly then four years later after they have started, they can retire, is that correct?

SENATOR FOWLER: Correct.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Do you know what would the average contribution be in that four year period?

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, the contributions are percentage of salary and I can't remember the exact...about 2½% is the employee salary contribution and about 3½% is the state's share.

SENATOR PIRSCH: So about 5% of a salary...

SENATOR FOWLER: Five or six percent of the salary, right.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Do you know what the average salary is?

SENATOR FOWLER: Probably state employee salary, \$16,000, \$17,000.

SENATOR PIRSCH: 5% of that per year...

SENATOR FOWLER: Right.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...and in four years, then that would go on and then supposedly they could retire at that time. Then what limitation do you have on the other end when that contribution by the state and the employee is used up, does their benefits stop?

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, what they would do, okay, you have