

voting, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill passes. LB 353.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Lamb would move to return LB 353 to Select File for specific amendment. (Read Lamb amendment found on page 1095 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, I draw your attention to this retirement bill which has not drawn a lot of debate as it has moved along across the board. This is a bill which allows some subdivisions to pay all, as I understand it and some other people may want to add their input, pay all of the employees retirement costs, if they so desire. However, there seems to be a difference in how the subdivisions are treated here. Now this applies on page 3 to the metropolitan city, on page 5 we are talking about county employees, on page 7 other city employees. But on page 6, with schools, it says the employer shall pick up this amount. All the rest of them say "may". My question is why should the schools be required to pick up the employees total cost of the retirement fund and the other subdivisions it all says "may"? Does anybody have an explanation of that? I'd like to hear it. But to me it looks like we are getting the Legislature involved in...directly involved in the bargaining process, and the school board does not have that option of whether or not to pay all of the costs. Now philosophically I'm opposed to having any subdivision pay all the retirement costs. I think as time goes on then there is going to be much more pressure to increase those costs because there is not an immediate cost to the employee. I don't think it is good public policy to do that. I realize there are some tax benefits to the employee when it is handled in this manner. I believe that is the reason that the bill has been introduced and has advanced as far as it has. But I just cannot see why we treat the schools differently than other subdivisions of government. We say on page 6, if you'd open your Final Reading bill book, page 6 of LB 353, down on line 26, it says the employer "shall" pick up the member contributions. You look on the other pages, page 5, line 20, the county "may"; on page 3, line 11, it says the metropolitan utilities district "may"... "may" pick up all