

originally almost a million. We then took that out. Now it is also true that 817 could pass and that the university, the Board of Regents could use a portion of their increase for salaries and use \$750,000 or some part of that to adjust their salary benefits in the area of retirement instead of outright percentage increase for salaries. So in that sense it would not have any cost. If on the other hand you are proposing to fund the additional one percent over and above the funds that are available for salaries, then there is a cost, but I would presume that no one is proposing to do that. I don't believe that anyone is proposing to put in additional money if this bill is passed. but the funding would have to be done if they did it at all within the available appropriations and primarily be within their available appropriation for salary adjustment.

SENATOR NEWELL: Let me just clarify, I'm not proposing that any additional revenues be added at this time. As I understand it that would be clearly an Appropriations Committee decision and those on the Appropriations Committee would have to make that decision and I don't know if that is intended to add additional dollars to the university budget. This does, as I understand it, allow the university some flexibility as to how they are going to spend that which is appropriated to them. It does give them some management flexibility, as I understand it, to take from the salary portion and add to benefits. There are some real benefits here in crude for the employees. Because many of these retirement things are not taxable and so forth so that in terms of benefits they would provide the employees an opportunity to benefit without costing the state additional dollars. With that in mind I urge the Legislature to readvance LB 817 to Final Reading or to E & R so that we can allow the university this management tool to try to help our employees without any additional revenue loss to the state.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, your light is on.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I did not make the statement that he was closing so technically he couldn't close. Okay, the question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Okay. Shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. Senator Newell, do you want to close on your motion?