

groups of judges, one called future members, others called original members, and they were future and original back when the bill was passed in '69. So the future judges are really judges that are on the bench now but may retire soon. This bill now deals just with the retirement benefits for future judges. In calculating retirement in the original bill, a percentage was built up on each year of service and that percentage was used to calculate retirement based on the total average salary of that judge's career, from the first year to the last year, the average of all those salaries. Due to inflation that has...and the fact that salaries have gone up at a rate to try and keep up with inflation, it has become necessary to adjust that to the average salary of the final four years of service, and that is the change in the bill, the major change in the bill. As it is now, you would have to take the whole life span of the judge's service to try and decide what the average salary is for calculating benefits. The second thing that this does is remove in the future associate county judges from the retirement system because essentially associate judges are not really serving as judges but more as employees of the court. In other capacities, they, then could become members of the state employees retirement system, any new associate judges. Those are the changes. Now the handout that I indicated...the handout that I put out indicates in its last sentence that there would be a cap or ceiling of the percentage of salary that could be accrued of 72½ percent. Now that is not in the bill now. That is in one proposed amendment. There is also a proposed amendment to put that cap at 60 percent of the salary. But those with the committee amendments are the changes that the bill makes. It changes from the total service average salary to the final four years of salary in calculating the retirement benefits and then removes associate county judges from the plan...any future associate county judges. So that is the bill. I understand Senator Goodrich has an amendment. Senator Carsten has an amendment. Senator Murphy has a series of amendments. I hope that we can act quickly on each of these and then just try and resolve the issue as to whether or not we believe this change is merited.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Goodrich, you have an amendment to the bill.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, Mr. President. What it boils down to is the original members are limited to 60 percent. They contribute 3 percent. The amendment as it goes through now would let the future judges go to 72 percent of their