

we don't want to do this, but it is those guys back in the Legislature that are mandating it. I have some real problems with that. So, at this particular time, I'm going to be voting against LB 432. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. Senator Withem, you are next on the floor.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I have two purposes for rising, one is to give general support to this bill. I agree with the speakers who have spoken before that the time has come when all of our public employees, regardless of where they live in the state, deserve to have some type of retirement system available for them. So I would urge you to support this bill. The other reason I stand is to take mild exception with some of the things that Senator Wesely mentioned in his introduction of this bill in that he appeared to leave the impression that passage of this bill will also relieve you of having to deal with another concept that comes before the Legislature quite frequently, and that is a deputy sheriffs retirement program. True, what this bill will do for deputy sheriffs throughout the state is in the two-thirds of the counties in the state where there is no deputy sheriffs retirement program they will be in the county employees retirement program. However, the philosophical question still remains as to is this the proper place for law enforcement officials, in the retirement program with all other county officials. I really don't want to debate that issue right now other than put you on notice that hopefully, at a future date with the cooperation of some members of the Retirement Committee, this issue will be before you. LB 432 helps somewhat, but we still have this issue before us. But to return to the bill itself, I do think LB 432 is an excellent piece of legislation and I would urge you to support it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, have to support the bill. Our county now is in the program and some of the constitutional officers are not and they feel this will help alleviate a lot of problems that are occurring in that county at the present time. The sheriff's office wants a retirement. They feel that the sheriff will now enter this retirement and that will end our problems in that particular area. For that reason, I will support the