

system. So those counties are all there. Then Lancaster and Douglas are now given the option to do that because they are individual systems, and they are planning to do that...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: If you want to make them all "shall", you can. That is fine, but we didn't feel it was necessary in those cases.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Uh huh.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harris, please.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just a few words to make sure that you understand the position of the Retirement Committee. Our thought in advancing this bill and accepting the word "shall" is very simple, and that is to give a benefit at the least possible cost to the public employees. As I pointed out during the debate on General File and on Select File, we are in a position to grant a benefit at the least cost to the State of Nebraska. It simply is moving the money out of the tax bracket and moving it so that it is not going to be something that is going to be a cost to the government in the long run because that money is going to be taxed when it is taken out. It is a very simple idea. It is probably one of the few benefits that the public employees are going to receive in some of these areas that are affected by the bill. I urge you not to support this amendment. Senator Wesely, do you want part of my time?

SENATOR WESELY: (Response inaudible.)

SENATOR HARRIS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just a question or two of Senator Wesely, if I might. I'm sorry, Don, but I didn't understand your response entirely. Maybe if I can frame the question in my own terms, maybe that will help me respond.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.