

what the situation is on the fiscal note and, you know, if Senator Haberman wants to get more information, I sure don't have any objection, but let's talk about the issue. LB 432 was brought before this body earlier on in the session after it came out of committee, I believe with only one opposing vote. This bill is supported by the County Officials Association. It calls for the county employee retirement plan to be mandatory, not an optional one. It's the only system in the state that is optional at this point. All the other retirement systems that we have, the schools and what have you, are mandatory and we feel that it's time that the counties all provide a retirement plan for their employees. There are 34 counties that are under a retirement plan. They represent two-thirds of the county employees across the state. The other counties, the 60 or so counties, 59 counties, that do not have a retirement plan represent about a third of the county employees, but we feel and I think it's agreed to by the different county official leadership that it's time that all counties have a retirement plan. The actual increased cost, if you'll look at the handout I gave you, is that essentially about another 5 percent additional money going into retirement plans so that's an additional expense to the county and then the county employee has a certain amount of their money taken out and put in. I believe it's 3.2 percent so that in the end 8 percent money of their salary gets placed in a retirement account, but that's all not required until January 1 of '87 and the counties are given a couple of years to work through the budgeting process to anticipate this change and it is recognized as a legitimate effort on our part to provide for retirement for all employees. As you know, I think in our day and age we've all encouraged people to plan for retirement and there is very few people that aren't under some retirement plan in the public or private sector. To be without a retirement plan for county employees is, I think, out of step and out of date and the optional feature of the county employee plan ought to be changed and I'm really pleased the County Officials Association has supported this change and I'd ask your support for the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, members, I apologize. I was talking to Senator Haberman. Were we talking on the bill now itself?