

CLERK: Well, you've got two on the same page.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Okay, yes, I think the first one was just to drop the age from 56 to 51, basically, just includes the state patrol.

CLERK: So you want the 51 one, right, Senator? Do you want the one that the retired state employees reach 51 years of age, that one?

SENATOR PAPPAS: Right.

CLERK: Okay.

SENATOR PAPPAS: That's the right one. It just, basically, lowers the age they can retire and retain health insurance at their cost, no cost to the state, from 56 to 51.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if I read Senator Pappas' amendment correctly, it's a change of substantive law. It's not an appropriation. It's an issue that has been before us several times. Even if you put it in the appropriation bill it would have no impact, I believe, and that being the case I don't know why put it in there because it would not authorize anything. It's kind of like passing a resolution.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely. Don't go away.

SENATOR WESELY: We'll do it. Okay, Mr. Speaker, members, I commend Senator Pappas' persistence, but as Senator Warner said, this has been an issue that has been in the form of legislation. It has not been successful and to try and put it in intent language or in the budget bill is not satisfactory. More than just the fact that you can't do this through the budget bill, secondly, I don't think you'll want to do it. This would provide for, it's estimated through the recent bids on health insurance, a five to 10 percent increase in health insurance costs to the State of Nebraska even though Senator Pappas said it won't cost us anything, it will. When you expand the pool with older people involved in that pool you increase the cost because more...the older you are the more you need health care and obviously that will mean more cost. Even if they pay the