

retire at the age of 60 and probably pay a premium of over \$200. Now there is one more point I'd like to bring up. As a state senator I am in the program even though I am over 65. I still stay in the state program because I do have to have some supplemental insurance. I pay the full amount myself and of course, if I leave the Legislature, that will discontinue. But I understand, and we're checking into it further, a state senator will also come under this provision. In other words, you young people should be looking into this very seriously because if you add your work with the Legislature plus any state employee years that you may have or will have in the future, you, too, may be able to take advantage when you reach the age of retirement prior to the age of 65.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: So, I really believe, and I commend Senator Morehead for bringing this forward because I have often talked to many of the employees that are in the same situation and they are looking forward possibly after 30, 35 years of service to the state and would like to retire before the age of 65, but like I said, the only thing holding them back is hospitalization insurance. I don't see any future costs to the state. They are going to pay their entire premium themselves plus the state's share, plus an additional 10 percent if proof can be shown that it is costing the state more to cover those people that retire before the age of 65. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Sieck, then Senator Pappas. Just a minute, Senator Sieck. (Gavel.) Could we have it a little quieter so that we can hear Senator Sieck, please. Thank you.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, thank you, and members of the body, I like Senator Morehead's amendment. I have a son that is on the patrol and I think he would like it, but I think we've got to take this one step at a time and it's very dangerous to accept this amendment because I feel the fiscal impact as we discover down the road before the session is over, that we're going to have to take that amendment back off because it is going to be very expensive. And I like the way it is written because there are some benefits there to the highway patrol and I think they are in dire need, especially those who are injured on the job.