

his office", which means that the issue is open as to whether or not we can put a retirement program in place. Based on court decisions in other jurisdictions, forty-two states, in fact, have legislative retirement programs. In West Virginia where there is very similar language in their Constitution to that in the Nebraska Constitution, a retirement program was upheld as constitutional and not prohibited by those terms of the Constitution. So what I am asking that you do is vote to add this amendment to LB 1129. We will carry the bill across, and in the same way that I shepherded the bill on expenses into the Supreme Court, I promise that that is what I will do with this one. We are after a court test. This is the only way that we can get it. We could argue for 50 years back and forth between the Legislature and the Attorney General's Office as we have done with expenses without arriving at a conclusion. So I am hoping that in order to get us off of dead center, you will adopt this amendment. Then we will readvance the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris. The speaking order then is Senator Pirsch, Senator Hefner, Senator DeCamp, and Senator Hoagland. May we have order in the Chamber please? (Gavel.) Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will just give you a little bit of history in regard to this issue and the Retirement Systems Committee. This particular bill was picked as one of the priority bills for the Retirement Systems Committee and the reason that we picked it is because we wanted the issue to be out on its own standing by itself to be considered. I did not vote, and as a matter of fact I voted no to the idea of putting the retirement issue into LB 325 which is completely separate from the issue of legislative retirement. I would have voted against LB 325 if the legislators retirement bill had been attached and left in the bill on Final Reading. I think it is a good idea to get a test on it. I support Senator Chambers' motion. I support the concept of legislative retirement and the general concept. There would be a lot of particulars to work out. And I don't think it is a bad idea to go through this process, Senator Hefner, at this time because I think even though it is a little unusual, the outcome is going to be superior to leaving the legislative retirement issue on LB 325, and I assure you that I will do everything within my power to make sure that issue comes off of LB 325 irrespective of what takes place on this particular bill. Thank you.