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SENATOR NELSON: Financially it is sound and it's anticipated for it to be that way for some time.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR NELSON: Incidentally, the retirement benefits for the lower paid judge is back to 24,000. Along with social security would be almost 100 percent of their salary. I'm not quite sure, I have to go visit with Senator Haberman where the 20,000 a year. I know he probably figured salary increases and so on. Compensation at 72,000 would make them, social system and the retirement system about 82 percent when they retire.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett and Nelson. Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Madam President and colleagues, I rise to support the legislation. In fact, Senator Haberman said that doesn't surprise him. Well, it shouldn't, Senator. You're talking about a small group of people and, obviously, the group we're talking about is not perfect. There have been, contrary to what some of us think, they are not anchored angels but I'll tell you my respect for the judiciary in most cases has risen substantially in the past few years. Seen some extremely hard-working judges. I don't think it's unreasonable to look at improvements in a pension plan, in pay plans as we have done. Sometimes we do the political thing. Today I would ask you to help Senator Schmit do the right thing.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chizek. I'll now recognize Senator Hefner followed by Senators Wickersham, Nelson, Cudaback and Abboud. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I believe I will support this bill. I think it's realistic but I would like to have Senator Schmit or Senator Nelson answer just a couple questions. Senator Schmit, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I will.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, how much of the judge's salary now is contributed to the fund.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Six percent of the judge's salary, Senator