

keep the COLA separate and not refund individuals for any COLA money. An explanation for the addition of the date July 1, 1993 is that the retirement system needs a little time to get ready for this new COLA. Member contributions are paid on a quarterly basis, and the quarter would begin on July 1st, so if we didn't have this date, the retirement systems would have to ask all of the school boards to pay the last month of one quarter, June, for this COLA. It would be so confusing for everyone and the PERB office would like to start it on July 1st, and it doesn't pose a problem because no one will receive any COLA money for quite a little while anyway because the fund has to build up. 3(c), the bill drafters caught 'his one. We had provisions for those retiring after this bill goes into effect, and we had provision for those who have already retired, but we didn't have anything for those people who may retire on the operative date of the bill. Because the operative date is on June 1st, we may have a number of individuals who retire on that date that this bill goes into effect, so that's the reason for that change. And the final change is the operative date from July to July...to June 1, 1993. So these were...these changes were called to our attention by the Public Employees Retirement Board office because, of course, they review all the retirement bills, and they are very careful as to eligibility dates and so on, and that explains the amendment. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer them, and, right now, I'd just ask you to return it to Select File so we may add this amendment and then return it again. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. I would rise in support of Senator Crosby's motion to return the bill. I think she's done a good job of explaining what her technical amendment will do. What we are really doing is clearing up some technical problems that were discovered by the actuary and the PERB board in administrating 292, and what we wanted to do in 292 and what we will do and ensure with this amendment is that retirees, people retiring from the system this year will be included by the change of these dates, and we will also clarify that people who support, provide contributions into the COLA will not get that money refunded should they terminate prior to retirement because the COLA is a self-funding mechanism and the money is expended in future COLAs and, therefore, it would be inappropriate to return that money. And so we are clarifying that for the PERB board so that they can administrate