

contribution from the General Fund as we match all other employee contributions. That way, taking the dollar from court costs doesn't diminish their entitlements or increase their burden in the program at that point. The second aspect would be that judges would continue to pay into the retirement fund after 20 years. Right now, they pay only until 20 years and even though they keep working and their benefits at retirement will continue to grow because their salary increases and the average of their last three years will include those salary increases that the Legislature generously grants them, while they don't pay anything toward that retirement benefit, this amendment would cause them to be treated like all other employees. They would continue to pay into the system as long as they are employed. They're not being cheated because they will get benefits beyond just the 20 years. It seems like there was another part, but, anyway, those are the two main ones. And anybody who would oppose that is crazy and unjust, unreasonable, irresponsible, and almost immoral. Here's why I say that. Right now, based on a study by Buck Rogers and associates, (laughter), and I gave you the cover sheet of it, the judges, they have the strongest plan as far as benefits right now. When it comes to the benefits granted theirs is the only one above average, so we're not doing anything to remove these gods from the cloudy heights of Mt. Olympus. We're not requiring them to study any more to remove the fogs from their brain and become clearheaded. We're not asking them to be experts in literature and write opinions that are cohesive, sensible and reasonable. We're not asking them to do anything other than be treated as other employees are treated. They still will have the best benefit program in the state but they will be required to bear their cost like everybody else. That, basically, is what the amendment will do.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Think on it over the weekend. Think on it during the days between now and when it comes up on Select File and between now and then. One reason I wanted to mention it at this point, if you have any questions that you want to put to me then we can do that, you know, before it actually comes up on the floor or after it comes on the floor if you want it on the record. But that is what that amendment would attempt to do. And I know that we have a majority of the members who are rational, reasonable, sensible and want to do the right thing. We might have one or two oddballs because there is not