

committee amendments have been incorporated. LB 639 is a Speaker majority..or priority bill and did come up on the agenda earlier but due...I have to pull it back due to an illness in my family. Since this measure is important to the State Patrol, I would like to thank Senator Day for graciously allowing me to amend LB 639 onto her firefighters' retirement bill. Under current budget proposals, the Patrol should...or could lose up to a maximum of six and one-half public service safety officers. While the principals involved in the bill would like to have seen it pass this year, they were willing to wait and have it come up in the natural course of business early next session. However, with the pending loss of several public safety officers, the need for addressing the patrolman retirement bill becomes more acute. It isn't just the lost positions that create a problem but it's the bumping that occurs when someone is let go. This results in moves and reassignments across the state. For these reasons, I hope you will support this amendment and return LB 724 to Select File and support AM2511.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Fisher. On the motion to return, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I know it's a quiet, calm time to bring up an amendment but I...I have opposition to it at this point. As I understand it, Senator Fisher, are you trying to allow for a patrolman to retire at the age of 50 versus the current age of 55? Is that what the proposal is?

SENATOR FISHER: If they have the 25 years of service.

SENATOR WESELY: So, do we have any handouts on this to show the change and the benefit levels and the impact on them?

SENATOR FISHER: Well, there should not be any impact because this...the retirement fund is funded 115 percent.

SENATOR WESELY: Uh-huh. Well, I think, you know, it's toward the last of the session and I understand...is this bill now on General File, Select File? Where is it located?

SENATOR FISHER: No, it's just out of committee. I mean, it was just voted out, has not been to General. I had it up. It was a Speaker's priority bill and due to an illness and I was unable