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February 11, 2000 LB 219, 922

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President, members, I'm going to be just as straightforward as I can be here. LB 922 simply adds a district judge to the eleventh district. This body, about five years ago, established what we call the Judicial Resources Commission. There is a letter here that was passed out on the recommendations of that Judicial Resources Commission. They have to report to the Speaker of the Unicameral, to Senator Kristensen. They reported to him and they reported their findings, and their findings was that the eleventh district had a 3.6, so that carried over to the next rounded figure, they deserve or they require four district judges, that's what LB 922 does. Each judge in that district has approximately 916 cases, that's above the average, way about the average. They have about 17,000 miles to drive, 17,000 windshield hours, or not hours, miles. This bill simply adds one district judge to the eleventh district. As I said before, we have the...we established in this body the Judicial Resources Commission and it is their finding, it's not Jim Cudaback's finding, it's not anybody else's finding, it's their finding. They make the recommendation. They meet once per year, this commission that we established on this floor meets once per year. And it is their finding that we require another judge in the eleventh district. We have 17 counties in the eleventh district, 17 counties. So I don't know how much more I can go on and on, on this issue, but I think it's straightforward, we all understand what it does. We understand the need and there are committee amendments. So with that, Mr. President, I will sit down; if we have any questions we can discuss that later. There are other people who will speak on the issue that are probably more qualified than I am. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Brashear, to open on the committee amendments, please.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, the amendment to LB 922 would increase the number of...well, LB 922 increases the number of district court judges in the eleventh judicial district, from three to four, which is a recommendation of the Nebraska Judicial Resources Commission. The committee amendment, which has been introduced, was introduced as LB 219, by Senator Suttle, last session, would add an additional