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February 23, 2001 LB 15, 23

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the closing on the advancement of LB 15. The question before the body is, shall LB 15 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the advancement of LB 15. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 15.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 15 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: LB 23, Mr. President, by Senator Suttle. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 4, referred to the Judiciary Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Suttle, you're recognized to open on the advancement of LB 23.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 23 increases the number of juvenile judges in Douglas County from four to five. The provisions of this bill were before the Judiciary Committee in 1999, and we did...it was advanced. We did pass it and the Governor vetoed it. The Judicial Resources Commission has approved this request twice, once in 1999, and again in 2000. The reasons are...were sent to me in a letter dated April 10, 2000, that if you will look on the sheets that I passed out to you earlier, on the back sheet it shows the court orders and hearings generated per year in Douglas County for the judges that are there. And in 1998, there were 17,748, and in 1999, the latest numbers we have, was 19,118. And if they keep going up like that, our judges are not getting any rest at all. But one of the things that all four judges wrote to me in April of last year was the increased docket requires that judges schedule cases approximately every 15 minutes. This leaves no meaningful opportunity to address the needs of children and families, and does not meet national standards of judicial justice, which recommend at least 30 to