

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2002 LB 876, 969, 1043

district court level. LB 969, offered by Senator Landis, limits the settlement escrow procedure to civil actions filed in district courts. The bill also eliminates a requirement that the state court administrator's office distribute information about the settlement escrow program, to the clerks of the courts, and limits distribution of such to escrow agents. The bill was advanced unanimously by the committee. LB 1043; under current law a fee of \$2 is charged in each case filed in juvenile and district court, and in each case filed in or appealed to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court. The collected fees are credited to the Legal Aid and Services Fund, which is used for funding indigent legal service programs in Nebraska. LB 1043, introduced by Speaker Kristensen, increases the \$2 fee charged in each case to \$5. The reason for the increase in the legal services fee is to address the very serious problem that many litigants face in our court system; the inability to afford legal counsel. The increase in the legal services fee is, of course, to increase the funding that goes to groups that assist those who cannot afford to hire attorneys. With one abstention, your committee voted 7 to 0 to advance LB 1043. All of the bills were advanced, as I indicated earlier, by your Judiciary Committee, all bills have a committee statement that will list proponents and opponents, and the recorded vote of your committee membership.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: With that, Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I urge the adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Priority motion on the deck (sic--desk).

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kristensen would move to bracket the bill until April 5th.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Since Senator Brashear has been speaking for 20 minutes nonstop, and hasn't taken a breath yet, I thought I'd just file a motion so he could take a breath and continue on. I would like to pull the bracket motion. (Laughter)