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participants away from drugs and back into a productive life. A drug court includes frequent drug testing, close supervision of the participant's daily duties such as school, work, and family responsibilities, appropriate substance abuse treatment and mandatory support group meetings. All of this is done in a graduated system of oversight. For instance, the graduated system in the Central Nebraska Drug Court means that a new participant will be tested for drug use three times a week. As this process successfully...as they process...progress successfully through the drug court program, the drug tests and other demands become less frequent. Drug courts also include sanctions for an offender who does not meet the program objectives. Sanctions can equal more frequent counseling or support group meetings, adjustments in drug testings, or a few days in jail. These sanctions are absolutely necessary according to the judges who preside over the drug courts. Recidivism rates go from 50 percent with traditionally prosecuted offenders to as little as 4 and 5 percent for a drug court graduate. These numbers say drug courts work. The packet of information provided to you has further information and statistics indicating the recidivism reductions experienced by drug court participants around the cor...country. I'd like to point out to you the first item on the page titled "Douglas County Court Progress Summary"; 21 drug free babies born to mothers in their drug court. As a member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality, I greatly appreciate that item of the report because I know that if a baby is healthy, the cost savings to that family and our society is immeasurable. How are these drug courts paid for? Grants from the United States Department of Justice and various law enforcement and substance abuse grants. Counties and cities are pitching in more and more as they see the success of the drug courts, and part of the fees are paid for by the offenders, themselves. For those who cannot afford it, the grant covers...funds cover, help cover the cost. There is a state funding component to two of the seven drug courts that we will discuss in AM3508. After the committee hearing, an amendment was drawn up to address concerns voiced by the Supreme Court Administration. The committee amendment is the language requested by the Supreme Court Administration and accepted by the committee. In closing, I want to reiterate my total support of this bill, of the upcoming amendments, and the