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LB 699, 760

addition, counties will not be billed for the services of the Commission on Public Advocacy. That is in fact property tax relieving, and terribly significant as it relates to the important capital cases that the Commission on Public Advocacy handles. Also in the committee amendment you'll find LB 699. The operative sections of this bill, introduced by Senator Landis, assess 75 cents of that total court filing fee for dispute resolution. The money collected by the fee is deposited into the Dispute Resolution Cash Fund. The proceeds from the filing fee will be used to supplement the budget of the Office of Dispute Resolution, and to support the six mediation centers across the state of Nebraska. Additionally, money generated by the fee will allow the court to use money which it would otherwise use for mediation to maintain the Capitol law library, which is also...

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...budget relieving. The mediation saves the court system time and money, therefore allowing our present court system, as it is sized, to deal with the workload, which it has. Most of the people helped by mediation are unable to afford legal counsel, and without mediation as an option, would have to enter, or might have to enter the court system unrepresented. Pro se litigants require more work from court staff, and take more time, because they must be assisted with what they're doing within the system. Additionally, the types of cases that are mediated by our Office of Dispute Resolution are time consumptive. Landlord-tenant disputes, bill collection cases, and divorce and child custody issues are frequently... frequently utilize the services of mediation. As mediation provides an ancillary benefit to the court system, your committee has sought to support the mediation centers within the user fee concept. Because I've been given my one minute time, I'll indicate that I will speak...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...further later. Thank you.