

deliberate consideration by the judicial conference. This body is convened by the chief justice and its membership consists of the chief justice, two district court judges, two county court judges, two municipal court judges and one juvenile court judge. This bill would serve several important functions. As we all know the different judges associations now separately lobby the legislature for salary increases. This bill would put an end to the scrambling among judges competing for their share of the available funds. Salaries would be set in a more predictable and dignified fashion. For the most part the bill would retain the existing salary relationship among the various courts. Therefore judges as a group would be treated fairly and equally with each other in the future. The bill would also serve to eliminate adverse feelings among judges which are inherent in a system which causes them to compete with each other for legislative attention regarding their salaries. Additionally the formula would establish a scale which the judges themselves have agreed reflects the appropriate differences between the various courts. Except for county judges outside districts two, three and four, the proposed formula would fix the salary levels within a couple of points of their present percentage relationship with a supreme court salary. The proposed formula would equalize the salaries of county judges across the state. There seems to be little justification for paying county court judges in three urban districts more than the county court judges elsewhere throughout the state. In fact, outstate county court judges have more extensive jurisdiction. In Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy Counties, separate juvenile courts hear the juvenile cases. Elsewhere this jurisdiction is handled by the county courts. In Lincoln and Omaha municipal courts hear municipal cases. Elsewhere this is jurisdiction handled by the county courts. Additionally, the chief justice is empowered to assign a county court judge to duties in another county when a need arises. Despite this when an outside court judge is assigned to duties in an urban county his salary is still less than the urban county court judges. Efforts have been made by the legislature in past years to develop a unified judicial system. This was accomplished in part by amending the state constitution in 1970 to place supervision and administration of all courts under the supreme court. Likewise, we have established qualifications for judges identical in all respects. The adoption of LB 111 would simply be one further step in the process of developing a unified strong judicial system. For those of you concerned the proposed system would reward all judges equally including those not as deserving as others, let me attract