

in my opinion, normally give an expeditious hearing because of the fact that some of the rules are a little different than the district court where we have more weighty matters discussed and determined. So I think that Senator Lindsay has an excellent point and I would concur with his logic on it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I guess the lawyers are speaking today so I will stand up and speak as well. I think the point of the bill is to get some kind of uniformity within the various courts and it simplifies the system. I think it makes it more uniform and understandable and, for that reason, I support it. As far as the contention that it might delay the trial process, I don't think any delay would be significant at all. It requires that the answer day is set back another 10 days to conform with the district court procedures. You might have that slight delay in those 10 days but, as far as setting the case for trial, the amount of time you have to wait for trial, I doubt if that would have any insignificant effect whatsoever. This bill was brought to us by the Court Administrator and it was...as I recall, Supreme Court Judge Fahrbruch spoke in favor of it. I think one of the things Judge Fahrbruch mentioned was in the present procedure you could have someone who had not responded to a petition, had not filed an answer but yet because of the time provisions you might not even know whether the petition had been served on that particular person or defendant. So, in effect, you come in for a default judgment because the defendant hasn't answered and yet the judge is confronted with the situation and says, well, we don't even know whether he has been served...the defendant has been served properly because we haven't had time for them to return the certified receipt to show that service had been accomplished. And that puts a...a kind of a...it just shows the problems and the inconsistencies that having a shorter answering period for county court makes as far as the comparison with the district court. So, in the interest of uniformity and consistency, I would urge that you support this bill. It would be much simpler for lawyers and lawyers are sometimes confused enough as they are. So I...Senator Korshoj agrees with me. So anything that will help lawyers, I would appreciate and I would urge you to support and pass this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Kristensen, followed by Senator Ashford.