

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm not sure that that's what this bill is designed to do, Senator McFarland, at all. From a nonlegal point of view, what's important is that we've got a series of...well, the rule is one way for one thing and it's a rule...is another way for another thing, what this really does is make one set of rules for all the courts in the state. It also lengthens out this period of time so that people don't fall into that wary trap of, well, you're in the wrong court so it's a shorter period of time so you lose. If I want to lengthen out a trial, I've got a lot of other ways that I'm going to do that. And if I really want to drag my feet, I'm going to do it in a lot better way than just 10 days on an answer. And I think that this is a good bill and one that is something you explain to people is that it provides uniformity and it's just a lot simpler, smoother procedure. Senator Hannibal agrees that it is not...he was laughing that it's a lawyer's bill, it's not. So, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, if I might ask Senator Lindsay a question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lindsay, would you respond?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Sure.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Would you explain again to the body your explanation because I think this is critical to the bill. Would you explain your explanation about the three weeks, how that the time limit can be extended three weeks? Because I think when you look to the date of service of summons rather than the date of the filing of the petition, you're not talking about 10 days but a much longer period. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Right. We're talking about...the point that Senator Ashford was driving at is that the answer date in district court is 30 days after service, after the date that the defendant is served with summons. In county court, the answer date is 20 days after the issuance of the summons. In some cases, it may be 10 days before the defendant is served so that will add an additional 10 days onto the answer time and extend it out, like I say, as much as three weeks, the additional 10 days for the answer date, plus that 10-day period