

regarding fees in county court, particularly those that relate to probate and similar type proceedings. The Court Administrator's Office had conducted a survey of the county courts and discovered once again a lack of uniformity in the charging of fees from across the state. Confusing language in the statute is the principal cause of this lack of uniformity and LB 233 clarifies the language and thus establishes uniform fees statewide for identical court proceedings. After testimony, the committee unanimously advanced the bill and I would urge the body to advance the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the advancement of the bill. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would simply like to ask Senator Chizek a question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chizek.

SENATOR HARTNETT: You're talking about uniformity of fees, is that right?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Are you going to lower the fees?

SENATOR CHIZEK: In some cases they will be. As the court testified before the committee, Senator Hartnett, it's one of those bills that it's not going to raise any more money. In some cases they were allowed to charge up to 40 and in this particular bill the fee ends up being 20. There are some that will go up moderately and some that will go down but it will be uniform.

SENATOR HARTNETT: The courts won't get any more money, is that what you're saying, Senator Chizek?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Could we...could you, and before it gets to the Select File, give us a handout and show us what happens with the different courts? Because, you know, I think we keep adding fees all the time, or so forth. Would that be possible? I will vote for it this time and then...