

claim will be held in whatever the county the injury occurs in as long as the injury occurs in the State of Nebraska. This bill addresses those injuries that occur outside the State of Nebraska but still affect a Nebraska employee. An example of that may be a Scottsbluff employee who is hired in Nebraska and who goes to work, let's say in Wyoming, and is hauling some construction materials or has a job over in Wyoming. He is injured in Wyoming and he comes back to his employer, he wants to have his workers' compensation case heard. Because it occurred in the State of Wyoming and outside of our state, that hearing goes to Lincoln and, so, he goes to Lincoln, his employer goes to Lincoln, his doctor goes to Lincoln, all the way in for these hearings. He also has the option of going to Wyoming. The trouble is they have a different law than we have and their system is much different. What this bill would allow us to do is to have the Workers' Comp Court decide which county this out-of-state hearing can be held in. So in other words, not everybody from Scottsbluff, in my example, would have to come into Lincoln, that the court could come on out and have that hearing in the western county. Now this applies, basically, to any county that surrounds a border in this state. That would include Omaha as well. It gives the flexibility of the court to set the hearing and it is a matter of convenience for employees and employers all over the state, and I would be happy to answer any questions, but I would urge the advancement of this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Is there discussion on the advancement of 261? Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Robak.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I think, as Senator Kristensen explained, this bill extends government to the people a little better in line with what we did several years ago in the court of allowing them the opportunity to carry their services out to the people. I think this bill is a necessary addition and I would urge its adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I ask for your support of LB 261. Senator Kristensen has done a fine job of explaining the merits of LB 261. For the record, let me just simply say that LB 261 applies only to cases where the injury has occurred outside of the State of Nebraska. The