

Unicameral this year to create a temporary court of appeals which will require district court, or excuse me, district court judges to again hear appeals from the lower courts, from the district courts elsewhere in the state. Again, this is going to place a tremendous burden, a tremendous increase of work on the district judges. Right now the district court system in Nebraska is a good system. I'd ask that we keep it good by allowing the judges the time, the resources they need to provide good decisions in the state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm the first nonattorney to talk on this bill. Maybe I don't know who...since Senator Chizek is not here, maybe Senator Kristensen or McFarland or Lindsay or something like this who knows something, how...do you know the criteria that they use, where the judges are going to go, Senator Kristensen, McFarland? I don't serve on that committee and I guess I just simply want to raise the question and maybe you know or don't know or something like that, because I hear, you know, I live in a very, very growing populous area. We have, I think, two and a half judges there now in Sarpy County and that they do handle a lot of cases and some of them, you know, maybe not be as serious cases as other cases, but how do they...going to make this judgment if we do pass this bill and so forth? Somebody can answer that for me, and maybe you did cover that, Senator Kristensen.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I'll give it a try here. What they do is they have a formula. The Resource Commission uses a formula to determine the area of greatest need throughout the entire state. They don't look at one particular area, they look at the entire state and they have a system of points and what they do is they take the number of new case filings, the number of jury trials and the number of counties that are in that judicial district and then they factor in the travel that is required because in a lot of counties out west we have to have a lot of travel and they divide that by the number of judges that are already in the district. And then they come up with a point total per judge. Whoever has the highest point totals, that is where they start to send the need for judges and this Resource Commission can look through the entire state. We as a body don't determine