

that the court is able to decide the case. So those future bills will...the real purpose of them is not to decrease the work load in any way, but to take care of the hundreds of cases that are sitting there waiting to be decided. Again, I would just note that this is a very modest increase. It would appropriate funds for the creation of two district court judgeships, not anything to do with the Supreme Court, district court judgeships along with the court reporters and staff and expenses necessary for them. I would urge its advancement as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall...okay. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 147A advances. LB 224.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 224 was introduced by Senators McFarland, Chizek and Hefner. (Title read.) The bill was read for the first time on the ninth of January. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. They report the bill back to General File with no committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, this is my day I guess. This is a bill entitled the Athlete Agents Registration Act. It has been before the Judiciary Committee before. I have brought it, myself, each year that I have been a member of the Legislature except for the first year when I was first appointed. Its history is that we were trying to address problems created when Nebraska athletes are sometimes taken advantage of by sports agents who induce them into signing representation agreements, sometimes jeopardizing their eligibility, but in any event these representation agreements are often so totally skewed to favor the agent and the athlete may very likely not have the business skill or knowledge to understand them. There have been some publicized incidents in the past particularly with regard to several years ago, to Mike Rozier when he was signed to a representation agreement by an agent charging a 13 percent fee on any contract that Mike Rozier signed. I can tell you that the standard fee is usually three