

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Seeing none, Senator Chizek, would you like to close on the adoption of the committee amendment?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Just very briefly, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody understands the amendment changes the sunset date from...moves it up one year, to December 31, 1990. Even Senator Chambers did not oppose the committee amendment. I urge your adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption the committee amendments to LB 587 (sic). Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendments are adopted. To the bill, Senator Kristensen, please, to explain the bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. We have a real problem in this state right now. We have, obviously, several of them. But this bill addresses one that's very serious, and that problem is that we have a backlog, in our Supreme Court, of approximately 500 cases. We've been building up to this backlog since about 1969, and what's happened is that justice is...can only handle so much. You can only do so much with so many members of a court. We have about, oh, 1,100 cases filed in the Nebraska Supreme Court a year, and right now we handle pretty close to that amount. Those are opinions that are rendered, things that are reviewed and so on. But we've had a backlog that has slowly built up since 1969. There are a couple of handouts that you might want to look at that have been passed out to you that show the progression of the backlog in this state since 1969, and the number of opinions that have been written by our seven Supreme Court justices have remained about the same. But it's the increased numbers of filings, it's a complexity of society, it's just the added burdens that have been placed upon our court that have caused a backlog. And, consequently, what happens is that you may well wait two years to have your case decided in the Nebraska Supreme Court, and that is two long years to decide whether, if you win a plaintiff's case for a car accident, for example, and you were awarded money, but the insurance company didn't want to pay you and they wanted to appeal, you could wait two years before this