

case is going to be decided. Most of that time is spent waiting, waiting on our Supreme Court for our seven justices to get a handle and to get a look at this case. What this bill does is it starts to address the problem of the backlog. This is not a permanent, this is not a long-term solution, but this is the best solution of many things that were looked at for a short-term problem of getting rid of the backlog. Next year you'll see us in with a permanent court of appeals. We're going to study that this summer, we're going to look at those sorts of things to determine how should we handle the increased numbers of filings in the Nebraska Supreme Court. I want to go briefly through the bill with you, it allows for an appellant division of our existing district court. The Supreme Court can call up a panel of one or more panels of three active or retired district judges. And, Senator Chambers, in response to you, this bill doesn't mandate, it doesn't authorize, it doesn't do anything more with the retired judges than what we're doing with them today. It's primarily designed to take care of having district judges come in and hear the backlogs. We're not going to pay the district judges any more money. They're willing to take a sacrifice to do this. They realize that the backlog in the Supreme Court is as harmful to them, at the trial level, as it is to all of us, and I'm talking about citizens, people who have our cases before the Supreme Court. A good example of that, remember the telephone deregulation bill that you all passed a few years ago? I think, what, 1986, that's been in the courts still. That was a fairly quick, simple trial on a lot of stipulated facts. We've been waiting almost two years to hear that decision to be rendered because they can't get to it because of all these other appeals. What this will do is bring the district judges up here to hear the backlog of cases. And they're going to have those cases assigned to them, so you're going to have three district judges, they're going to have cases assigned to them that are already on the backlog, and the Supreme Court is going to give it to them. We're not going to give them capital cases, because those are too serious, and we're not going to give them cases that talk about constitutionality of statutes, because those are important. Those are things that the entire Supreme Court ought to decide themselves and review. And we're not going to let them take a look at those things. They're going to hear arguments, they're going to read the briefs and do everything else that they do already now on an appellate level. They're going to give their recommendations back to the full Supreme Court. Then the full Supreme Court of seven members is going to review those