

it's a good opportunity for us to see if something like this would work and help them clear up the backlog and actually work toward perhaps an appeal system, a middle court system that would eventually take care of something like domestic problems or divorce cases and so on, which are in somewhat maybe a separate category. So, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to ask a question of Senator Kristensen, then he can have the rest of my time. You keep bringing up the district court judges and it brings up a subject I'm very interested in. What is their backlog? How much work do they have? It's my understanding that there are lots and lots of district court judges that can do their work in a three-hour day. Is there any statistics on that?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, I'm not prepared to give you statistics on each district judge. I think it depends on which area that he's covering. I would dispute that some of them can get their work done in a three hour day. A lot of my district judges spend a good share of their day traveling across a very broad district, just to get to hear those cases. And they may spend two hours a day traveling, just to get there and back. The bottom line question that I think you're really asking is, do they have the time...

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Yeah.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...the real busy ones, do they have the time to get there? The way this is designed is that they'll probably take, during the next year and a half, they'll probably serve one month during that period of time to come down here and serve. That would be assuming all of them were asked. They all don't have to take the time. The District Judges Association got together and decided that, yes, we're willing to make that sacrifice and do that. On a long-term basis that is not, you know over the long run we want those people at the trial level, and we want to keep them there.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: But is there any statistics on what their case load is?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: There is, I just don't have them off the