

to look like, and, yes, there is a bill in Judiciary Committee, and I think the public hearing is next Wednesday, and I urge you to come down and listen, but you and I are going to get to make that decision. In closing, the amendment, we have got to keep it in perspective. The voters are going to have to examine this and determine if this is something that they want to do. This bill does not have a price tag on it. You and I are going to decide what that price tag will be if this constitutional amendment would pass. We have two basic purposes. One is to guarantee everybody the right to an appeal and have someone examine the lower court record; and we are going to pay more attention to the more important cases and give our Supreme Court the time to study and write the most thoughtful cases they can and add us some direction. For example, the telephone deregulation bill, we've waited over two years to find out whether the act is constitutional or not, so we are also going to get speedier justice. And when you go back to your constituents and they are going to say, you know, it is just...how come the court system doesn't work? Well, the court system is choking on itself because it is a reflection of society. We have more complex cases and more people filing appeals, and we could bring in an amendment that would say you can't appeal. I would never stand for that, not at all. You have got your right to appeal and I want to protect that right to appeal. What this does is gives us the ability to create a court of appeals permanently. The band-aid court will terminate in this December and I would ask for your support in passage of this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the bill, itself, Senator Hefner, followed by Senators Abboud and Smith.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I think it is probably time for a lay person to talk on this. We have heard from just about all the attorneys, but this bill sounds reasonable to me. I know we don't know what it is going to cost, but if the people approve this, well, then the Legislature would come back and draft legislation that would take care of this. But what this does is it would allow the people to vote on that this fall and say whether we want an appellate court, whether we want another layer of courts, and we all know that it takes a long time to get a case before the State Supreme Court. In fact, many times you have forgotten about the case when it comes up and you wonder to yourself, why did this take so long, but the caseload is so heavy that it just, it just takes many