

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: You aren't going to have any more time left, I'll give you what time I have but you won't have enough time. I am interested in hearing what you talk about the process of the judge selection and Ernie has discussed this, too, the concern that we have about not having judges that we have a lot of faith or confidence in as far as, you know...

SPEAKER BARRETT: I'm sorry, time has expired.

SENATOR SMITH: Can you put your light on and respond to that? Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Do you have a very quick answer to that, Senator Ashford?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yeah, I have an amendment up to require that the appellate court judges be approved by the Legislature and we can talk about that when that comes up.

SPEAKER BARRETT: An amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lindsay would move to amend the bill. Senator Lindsay's amendment is on page 245 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, this amendment that I have offered is to really get out on the floor some of the different proposals that have been set forth. My amendment would basically gut the bill and insert in its place what was LR 10 last spring at the committee level. It would take a different approach to the same problem. The problem we've got is the Supreme Court has a backlog, that appeals are not getting heard as quickly as they should. We've all heard the phrase, justice delayed is justice denied, and there is being a lot of justice denied right, or excuse me, a lot of justice delayed right now. I'd better watch what I'm saying here, a lot of justice delayed right now because of the immense backlog. I think first is to give us an idea of where our court stands. In 1970 there were 362 appeals filed in the Supreme Court. By 1980 that annual figure had grown to 741 cases, and by 1988, 1,103 cases. We've gone from 362 cases