

subject. It relates to increasing the number of State Supreme Court judges and the bill does not address that issue.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lindsay, would you care to respond?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President. I think that this particular amendment is germane. I guess the reason is that what we're trying to address is the Supreme Court backlog, the issue, the issue of whether we're getting cases heard, how we are getting appeals heard. The subject is, how do we get a final decision on any court case in the State of Nebraska. There have been two proposals. The proposal in LR 8 is that we establish an intermediate court of appeals. The proposal in the amendment to LR 8 is that we establish, we expand the powers of the Supreme Court, the number of the Supreme Court allowed to sit in division. Both of them will accomplish substantially the same purpose and that is to lower the amount, reduce the amount of time it takes to have an appeal heard, to increase the number of decisions that can be heard, to reduce the backlog, the same purpose is being accomplished. I think it's important to note that earlier this session we did change our germaneness rule. The germaneness rule, as I understand it, now reads that a nongermane amendment includes one that relates to a substantially different subject, period. I don't think this relates to a substantially different subject, I think this relates to the same subject. I think very clearly it falls within that. We have taken out the language that deals with...it used to read that, or accomplish a substantially different purpose than that of the original bill to which it is proposed. The second language does not apply. The only question here is whether it relates to a substantially different subject. It doesn't. Both relates to the Supreme Court; both relates to the Supreme Court caseload; both attempt to reduce that backlog, they just have different styles of doing it. I would respectfully urge the Chair to overrule the challenge and allow the amendment to be considered.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. As has been suggested the purpose of the bill is to limit the number of appeals, limit the cases which can be appealed directly to the court, authorizing also the Supreme Court to assign duties to judges, et cetera. The amendment offered by Senator Lindsay on page 245 does speak to the matter of increasing the number of judges. Our previous germaneness rule, of course, had two parts, the subject matter