

will vote on. I think it's a reasonable resolution, and obviously when you compare it to other states, that is the way the other states have chosen to go, it makes sense, I urge the body to do so, defeat Senator Lindsay's amendment and then eventually vote for the passage of LR 8.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to recognize under the south balcony, two guests of Senator Dan Lynch. Mr. Jim Hergert and Mr. Joe Thibodeau. Would you gentlemen please stand and be recognized. Thank you, we're glad to have you visiting your Legislature this morning. Further discussion, Senator Pirsch, followed by Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Moore pointed out the historic debate that has gone on about the Supreme Court and I want you to know that in Judiciary Committee when we have discussed the caseloads in the Supreme Court and judges at any level, that they are discussed at great length and there is much opposing sides within the committee as you can appreciate. I was suspicious at first of adding another layer, of even adding more judges to the Supreme Court, so I was particularly attentive and hard to convince. But as it was pointed out and as you can see clearly in your map, this is...has been instituted in many of our states, and particularly when it was pointed out to me that Minnesota, indeed, had added the nine judges and worked on the assumption that Senator Lindsay's amendment would do, they changed it. They tried it for a couple of years and they changed it back to the intermedia...intermediate appellate court. And they changed it back because it simply did not work. It did not reduce delays, it did not accomplish the purpose that a change would be made to justify, and so they changed it back and used the intermediate appellate court. I think we also should mention that any judge appointed, and it would be good to have legislative approval if that approval is not used as a political hammer, but that isn't even an issue when we're talking about the constitutional amendment. We have to decide, and our choice today is whether we go on a system that has been proven, that has been tried and proven not to work in other states, and these states are not so dissimilar. I have a cousin who is a court justice, Supreme Court Justice in Minnesota, who did finally convince me at great length and questioning, that the intermediate appellate court is the way to go, if we want to accomplish the purpose of...and I think we all do. It was pointed out, we are not seeing reductions in our caseload, only increases, and there does not