

selected. What could be more logical than to say that if you have a court, you have got to have judges? Without judges there is no court. So what this is doing that Senator Ashford is proposing, not setting the number of judges, not changing any duties, not altering anything that the rest of this amendment as proposed would do. It simply says that the people whom we presume and would have to assume are going to be connected with this court will be obtained in a certain manner. And I don't know of anything that could be more intimately connected with the creation of a court than this. We are dealing with a brand new entity. All that Senator Ashford and my amendment, because I believe in it completely and co-signed with him, will do is point out how the judges on that court will be selected. And I do believe that the Chair's ruling is germane. And, as for the matters raised by Senator Kristensen in saying that if you bring up a bill that relates to the criminal justice system or criminal law, you can bring any and all things into that bill as an amendment, perhaps that's true, depending on what part of the criminal law and how broadly the bill before us is drafted. But, right now, such a law or bill is not before us. The ones supporting LR 8 have brought it for the purpose of creating a new court system. The court must have judges. This amendment simply tells how those judges will be procured. And I agree with the ruling of the Chair and hope that we will vote against Senator Kristensen's attempt to overrule.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Anyone else care to speak? Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Just very briefly in amplifying on that, two points. One is that what I am proposing is required by the Constitution...is required that we do, we must have a constitutional amendment to do this, number one, and it's consistent with the constitutional effort...or the efforts to change the Constitution to create a new court. So all we're doing is changing the Constitution or again, in effect, by staffing that court and by putting through a process or establishing a process as to how that...those judges will be approved. But, secondarily, I think we can vote up or down. I mean, we can say when this...on the merits, we can say, no, we don't think we, as a Legislature, should have a role in deciding this appellate court...who should be, who should be involved in this appellate court. That's a question for us to vote up and down...up or down on the merits. Clearly, how you structure the court that you're creating, as far as who the judges are again,