

understand, the bill number on this is LR 237 and I assume it will be going before the Judiciary Committee and I think that at that particular time I will consider supporting this proposal. But I'm not quite sure what the public reaction is, as hearings sometimes are helpful in determining how the public feels, whether they feel this would provide more input or less input. In addition to that, I have a question in regards to...if we're going to model this after the federal legislation, and congressional...having the congressional support of a federal district court nominee or any federal judge nominee and its approval before the Congress, as I understand, the Congress runs under a system of having the...once the appointment is made and the Congress approves, then that individual becomes a judge. And, with this particular proposal, they're put in temporarily and they can be pulled away at a later time and I think probably the best approach would be to wait until the Legislature approves those nominees before we go ahead and actually approve them, or until they can preside before a court. I think it would look better if those individuals were approved by the Legislature first. That's one concern I have about it. But I do find that sometimes a legislative hearing is helpful when you're bringing up a concept like this that is totally new to the system, that has not been debated by the Legislature, to kind of get a feel for what the public feels in regards to these issues. And I think that this particular amendment is one of those types of proposals that would be best first heard through a hearing rather than applied on the floor of the Legislature. So, at this time, I'm going to be rejecting this amendment and moving to advance LR 8, but maybe that particular proposal, LR 237, that will be going before the Judiciary Committee will be something that I will be able to support and we may be able to debate it later this year. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. The member from the 6th District, Senator Ashford.

**SENATOR ASHFORD:** Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I would like to make this fairly short because we have gone over a lot of these issues. I think you can read it and you can decide for yourselves whether or not you want to have a role in confirming...or giving advice and consent to the Governor on who should be a judge. It's pretty hard for me to believe that anybody here would say, no, they don't want that kind of participation, especially when we have an expanding judiciary, when the Bar Association and the Supreme Court is coming to us