

judge. For example, let's say that the judge out in my district dies, they will meet to decide whether they replace that judge in my district or whether that judge can be placed in another area of the state to meet numbers. So we don't necessarily need to redistrict. What that Resource Commission does, though, is address your problem when there's a vacancy of where is the most need for that judge? Now, oftentimes that is, you know, with most population, case filings and so on. They're now starting to factor in drive time, which is good for you and I out in the less populated areas.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: We had this case in northeast Nebraska also where the judge got a different county and they swing right around.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yeah.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Were you through, Senator Kristensen? Senator Lindsay, please, on the Haberman amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Haberman amendment and in support of the bill. We listened to Senator Chambers' arguments about some of the decisions that come out; and if we can just assume, for the sake of argument, that everything he says is correct as far as the quality of judges, what that tells me is that we're not paying judges enough to get the good quality people. He talks about cutting their salaries, what we should be doing is increasing if that's the case, increase them to the point where we get competent people in there, if that's the argument. In 1975, Nebraska's salary ranked 24th in the country. By 1980, we were down to 40th; by 1990, down to 44th. I suggest, with the Haberman amendment, we'll continue to go...to spiral downwards and before long the decisions that Senator Chambers refers to will be the norm rather than the exception. Some of the decisions that Senator Chambers refers to, I think he talked about an appeal bond, those types of things, I would agree, they're wrong. But I don't think that's the reason to penalize the good judges, to drive them out of office so that all we have got is attorneys who may not be able to make that much in private practice, wanting to get those jobs because they pay more. I don't think that's the approach we want to take to our judiciary. Our judiciary is intended to