

debated at length in the Judiciary Committee. It's one that although I had 75 cents, 50 cents appears to be a fair compromise. It's one that I certainly can live with and would agree to at this point. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Chizek has waived closing. Proceed with the vote. All those in favor please vote aye. All those opposed please vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and the committee amendments are adopted. Senator Kristensen, do you wish to speak on the bill itself?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I do, Madam President, thank you. LB 37 deals with court reporters and court reporters, just as a brief background, are those individuals who take down the testimony, receive the evidence at a trial. Now this can be a trial whether there is a jury or is not a jury and their present with their judges. Most of them are employed by their judges and do this work, receive a salary for being there taking down everything that goes on in the court proceeding. If there is an appeal, for example, if you have a divorce in the District Court and you want to appeal that to the new Court of Appeals, you need or, hopefully, to the new Court of Appeals, to the Supreme Court, you want to prepare a transcript of all the exhibits that were introduced and a bill of exceptions. The bill of exceptions are the verbatim written testimony of all the witnesses and you want the Supreme Court to receive all of this so they can review the case and make their ruling. And that is how any Appeals Court finds out what occurred in the lower court. The court reporters are a little bit like an independent contractor. This work, they are mandated to do this but there are other fees paid to them. They do this work at night, on the weekends, and after they're done with their employment with the individual judges. They must buy their own equipment so they buy their own machines, whether it's a computer or word processors and so on. Those expenses are all their own. They buy their own paper and then they charge a fee to the person who requests this work to be done. If, for example, one party wanted to appeal, they would ask that a bill of exceptions and a transcript be prepared and then the other side probably would