

cost...is this a cost increase for the counties, for the state? No. If you will look at the fiscal note, it actually will increase some of the revenues to the state. There is a slight increase when the county appeals in a county court action but that's less than \$50,000, as an estimate, and for all of our counties that works out to hardly any expense at all. In fact, the state would have an increase in \$50,000, so if we're looking at state monies and state tax dollars, it's an increase in fees there in revenue and not into expenses. It has been some 13 years. That is the purpose of LB 37 and I would ask for your approval and move to vote it on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. I will now recognize Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, if I may, I would like to ask you a few questions just to refresh my memory on some of this.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: First of all, with regard to the court reporters, basically, who pays the court reporters? They're regular salaried employees, are they not?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Right. The court reporters are paid by the state as an employee of the district judge. The district judge hires and fires but they are put on that salary.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And how is that salary set? Are they paid uniform salaries throughout the state or does that vary from place to place?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, they've got a minimum and a maximum. I think they vary from 22,000 to 30,000, depending upon experience and it's, to the best of my knowledge, it's a merit sort of system, experience and so on.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And this salary is for, I assume, the regular eight-hour day that most employees of our state and local political subdivisions are expected to work. Is that right?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's right. They...well, I don't know if it's an eight-hour day because it depends on which court you're