

Columbus to Omaha and added an additional judge from our current...from our...it reallocated our judicial resources. Well, we...I guess what I am saying is that the last couple years one of our arguments on the floor was if we don't add judges, we're going to have de facto redistricting regardless of any actions taken by the body because the Judicial Resources Commission will reallocate those judges to areas of the state that have a higher caseload or actually have a higher point total under our point total system. I can tell you that I believe the next judgeship that would probably be lost by rural Nebraska would be out in the Panhandle and that would probably be in, I believe, Senator Wickersham's area. When there is a vacancy out there that will probably be moved possibly back to Columbus and it's just judging on from the different point totals that we have. In a nutshell, what I'm saying is we have...caseloads have increased dramatically. This Legislature has continued to define additional crimes, has continued to require different protections in domestic relations type cases. The domestic abuse cases have increased. The litigation has become more and more complex. Douglas County just had a trial that went, I believe, nine weeks on a products liability on a motor vehicle. And that's the type of litigation that we're starting to see now, is the very complex litigation that takes quite a bit of time. Consequently, we're having a severe strain on judicial resources. In order to counterbalance this, what is necessary is to add...what we have in the bill is to add two district judges. Now where would those judges go is the next question. Those judges would be allocated by the Judicial Resources Commission. Anything I say up here as far as where I think they go is merely a guess, that ultimate decision is made by that commission. My guess is that one would go to Douglas County and the other either to Lancaster or back up to Columbus. Just again judging from what the caseloads have been and what the arguments have been over the past...in the past Judicial Resources meetings. Because of this, because of the increasing caseloads, because of the increasing complexity of the litigation, because we have severely strained our judicial...our judiciary right now, I think adding the district judges is necessary with or without redistricting. And I would urge that LB 181 be advanced to Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: I would move we adjourn until 9:00 a.m., March 27.