

SENATOR CHIZEK: Madam President, colleagues, I don't want to be too repetitive. Senator Lindsay had opened some yesterday, and went into some of the statistics. This basically is the same bill that we've dealt with the last two years that this body has seen fit to pass and it was vetoed. I think one of the things that I would ask that you remember is that over the past 19 years the population growth, legislation, court decisions have caused litigation to grow substantially, particularly, colleagues, in the metropolitan area. The fourth district has not only seen a substantial increase in caseload during this period of time, but also an increase in the complexity. As an example, in 1972, when the number of judgeships in the fourth district was increased from 11 to 12, there were 6,000 new civil, criminal, and domestic relations cases filed. Seventeen years later, in 1989, there were 10,287 new cases. In 1990, there are 11,318 new cases filed. I think that we all recognize that as we, as legislators, introduce legislation that increases penalties, increases penalty time, and change the penalty nature, that these all increase the workload and the caseloads of the court. You know that federal and state legislation has been enacted that mandates the courts expedite the hearings and disposition of paternity and child/spouse support in enforcement matters. Example, in 1990, 6,000 hearings involving child support enforcement were held. A significant increase has occurred in the number of domestic relations cases which are being reopened for the purpose of modifying the decree as to custody, visitation, and support. Colleagues, I would urge that you once again see fit to enact this legislation, and would ask for your support for LB 181.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, if Senator Chizek, I believe, or Senator Lindsay can answer a simple question. Obviously, there's been a great deal of consternation in recent months on areas outside of Douglas County, as well as Lancaster County, about judgeships and about filling of vacancies, about where they will be moved. I guess my question to Senator Chizek is, how would this bill affect the areas outside of Douglas County? Douglas County has already, by the judicial alignment, already received one new judge. Is that correct, Senator Chizek, or will be receiving one new judge?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well, we haven't yet. But the re...it depends