

hiding assets, by leaving the jurisdiction, by declaring bankruptcy, by excessive appeals, all which seek to undo the power of the court order. In a mediation, the two parties, without the ruling of a judge, have agreed to what they think is fair or will accept and the compliance rates are generally far in excess of 80 percent. The compliance rate in court orders is oftentimes below 70 percent. Recently, the federal government analyzed how much money they had saved by implementing a system of farmer mediation for federal lenders who were having trouble collecting loans. They concluded that their compliance rates were up and their costs were down between 10 and \$16 million across the country by using mediation first rather than going to court. Mediation is a very effective system for dispute resolution and this bill seeks to bring mediation to Nebraska. Now, since you are now grounded what mediation does and its values and how it operates, what's in LB 90?

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. And I will renew my light, Mr. Speaker. Our clerk of the...or, rather, our court administrator will oversee a division in his office headed by an executive director and an advisory council to encourage the creation of six grant programs around the state for volunteer community mediation programs which can accept court-annexed issues, issues where the courts have said, look, why don't you take this to mediation first or community disputes? Basically, the cost of the program in the first year would be about \$100,000 and in subsequent years it could be as high as \$240,000, depending on whether all of the six \$30,000 grants are awarded. The program would use community volunteer mediators, a sliding scale would be charged for the cases, no case would be turned away for...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...a lack of the ability to pay and, basically, the system operates because mediators would be volunteer community members who would meet a standard of 30 hours of training to become mediators. I urge the advancement of LB 90.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. The first speaker is Senator Crosby.