

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. I would just like to use this last minute. I thought Senator Schmit raised an excellent point and that was...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...we must always guard against the creation of bureaucracies. The last section of the bill requires the director of this program to report annually not only to the Chief Justice, which is the branch that oversees this, and the Governor, but to the Legislature. And the report we indicate should include the number and types of disputes that were received, the disposition rate, any problems encountered and a cost comparison of mediation and litigation so that we will have, on an annual basis, a chance to oversee the performance of these centers, how they're done, how cost effective they are and the like, and, hopefully, that will be a tool for us to use to combat the creation of a bureaucracy that is more bureaucracy than service.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. We will go to Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, once again I have some questions of Senator Landis, obviously, as I look at the...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Landis, would you respond, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: As I look at the fiscal implications of the bill, I want to begin by saying that, obviously, I support the concept of mediation. A couple of questions. You mentioned a couple times about how late Nebraska is in this business and you mentioned a number of states, I mean, could you quantify that? And, I mean, do the majority of states do something like this or do.. is it just less than 10, bigger than a bread box? I mean,...

SENATOR LANDIS: Bigger than a bread box, less than a tank. I would guess that there are state mediation programs in, oh, between six and a dozen states. Now those are state operated programs. There are mediation programs in probably 40 states. Whether they are thoroughgoing statewide systems...