

than if they go back to court and get a court order. But Senator Kristensen raised another prospect. It would be possible for the two parties who had gone to court, opened a file, started a case, set it for hearing, for some reason the court says, look, why don't you go out and try to mediate it, they come back and say, well, we did make an agreement. In the event there was an attorney involved, the attorney might say, and, your Honor, we would like to stipulate to this agreement and have this be the disposition of the case and both parties ask you to make a court order consistent with that. If that was followed then you would have the additional power of the contempt of court powers of a court to force the honoring of a court order. Under normal circumstances, mediated agreements don't go back to court, they're voluntary...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...but the compliance rate is high.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Before we continue with the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They are 32 sophomores from across the state and they are attending the 7th Annual Sophomore Pilgrimage which is sponsored by the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs and Iris Kohler is the president and Jean Kolterman is the coordinator. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. The next speaker is Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I have some questions for Senator Landis. I heard you...willing to respond, I'm sure. I heard you mention Ohio. How many states do have this type of program?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, the process of mediation is available either formally or informally probably in every state, formally recognized in statute maybe in 40 states. The kind of question Senator Moore was asking was a state office of mediation and there is half a dozen to a dozen of those.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. The next question. You mentioned the types of people that would be mediators. Would there be some type of certifica...certification for those people or, I mean,