

been able to get the problem solved, even though the Legislature has been more than cooperative on most instances. We still have had an incredible overload on our judicial resources in Douglas County. We have attempted in the past to get legislation enacted that would have provided for two additional judges, but these proposals were struck down by Governor Orr, and the Legislature, in its wisdom, chose not to override those vetoes. Well, we are coming in again with a hopefully lucky third time on an attempt to add these additional judges. The background is such that Judicial Resources pulled the judge from Columbus to...and gave it to the Douglas County District Court because of the overwhelming problems that we are having in that court system, not only with civil cases but, more importantly, with criminal cases. The requirement that these...that individuals that are charged with criminal crimes be tried before a court or a jury in an expedient manner has caused considerable problems to our district court system. As a result, the Judicial Resources Commission chose to take that judge from Senator Robak's district and place in Douglas County. At the same time, we were debating LB 181. This amendment does, basically, return us back to where we were prior to the Judicial Resources Commission becoming involved. The Judicial Resources Commission is also disbanded after this because of some concerns over the constitutionality of the judicial branch allocating resources, allocating where judges should be. There is a great deal of good law that shows that the Legislature is the only authority that can establish where these judicial districts should be. In my opinion, the Legislature has been negligent in its responsibility of not properly allocating where these judicial resources should go. And they may, in fact, leave us in a situation of having to take or put judges in different areas, and it may be, in fact, that Senator Robak's area may have to lose a district court judge for the greater good of the state. But at this time, I don't feel that we should delve into that. We should take the approach of seeing to it that we have those judicial...additional judicial resources in Douglas County. So for that reason, I plan to support Senator Robak's amendment that calls for these two additional judges to remain in Douglas County and have the judge that was taken from the Columbus area returned back to the Columbus area. I feel that next year, or possibly this year, I mean, this body can make its own decisions but sometime in the near future we will have to come to that decision. Much the same as it will be painful to examine redistricting, we will have to reexamine judicial resources within the state to make the best use of the taxpayer dollar.