

hiring of additional referees without someone having the big picture looking at the situation and saying, well, can't we use a county judge first, and can't we spot hire first, can't we do some cheaper things first. And the other thing is that a referee could be removed either by the district court or the Supreme Court under the bill, as opposed to just being removed by the district court. So most of these, they are not technical, but they are not major changes. They are designed, hopefully, to simply build in flexibility. There is an A bill attached to this. The court, at this point in time, has asked for one referee, about \$40,000, I think it was. I have to take another look at that. But that is all that it is intended, that is all that will be done this year, and, of course, in future years, if they need additional help, they will have to come through the appropriations process and make their case, if, in fact, they want more referees as opposed to getting a county judge to help out or hiring someone on a very temporary basis to help out. Hopefully, we won't need very many referees. Frankly, in my opinion, we shouldn't need very many referees if we would simply develop more flexibility with our judicial resources and get people who are underworked to the areas where they are overworked. That is a general problem, from my perspective, but this addresses a more limited situation and I hope you see fit to tack this onto the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Does anyone wish to speak to this amendment? Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: I rise to support the amendment. Senator Beutler pretty well explained everything and I think that this is probably something that we've worked on for a period of time and we should...I would encourage your support in the adoption of the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Beutler? Closing is waived. We will now vote on the Beutler amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the Beutler amendment? Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted.