

interested in this matter an opportunity to argue it. But for her we would not have had that opportunity. I would also like to thank the members of the Judiciary Committee who got it out, and Senator Chizek in particular, without whom nothing would have happened this year on this matter either. And, finally, I wanted to thank again Senator Withem for his action last year, which I think was part of what's bringing this to us today. LB 1059, I would explain to you to begin again, has essentially two parts, two concepts in it. The first concept is to take the 21 judicial districts that now exist and to consolidate and put them together in such a way that you have, in the end, 12 districts. I have handed out to you a packet of materials. The front piece on that packet of materials is entitled "Judicial Redistricting, LB 1059 As Amended", that will be with the technical amendment that I...that you will hear about in just a second. But the plan that you see in front of you is the plan that I present for your review. On the second page of your handout package are the existing district courts, all 21 of them, so that you can compare the first page and the second page, if you're so inclined, and see exactly how the districts have or have not been consolidated. Now not all of the districts have been consolidated. Lancaster County, Douglas County, the old districts 3 and 4, also the old district number 2, Sarpy, Cass and Otoe, old district number 9 in northeast Nebraska, those districts have been totally unaffected by any boundary changes that are a part of LB 1059, they are the same districts. That's the first concept in LB 1059. The second concept in LB 1059 basically says that there are three districts where the workloads are simply not heavy enough to justify all of the judicial resources that are being used in those areas. And it says with regard to the 12th district, as shown on your 1059 map, and with regard to the 5th district, and with regard to the 1st district, the 1st, the 5th, and the 12th district, that at such time as a vacancy shall take place in the district court, that is when another district judge resigns, or retires, or otherwise leaves the bench, those three positions will not be filled without coming back to the Legislature for a decision on that matter. Those are the two concepts in 1059. The advantages that I see to 1059, there are a number of advantages. One of the advantages is the elimination of the one judge districts. And the one judge districts, in my opinion, are very difficult districts to justify, one, because of the unevenness in the workloads as between districts; two, because it's difficult, given our present system, to find judges to cover when there are conflicts of interest, when there's vacation