

Wickersham, you're next.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. All of this discussion, some of this I just find astonishing quite frankly. The discussion about what happened in the 16th judicial district in 1980, I was a beginning lawyer then and Judge Moran served the 16th district alone. Judge Moran literally worked himself into a heart attack and then the members of the bar in the 16th judicial district did come to the Legislature and say we need another judge. We were afraid, quite frankly, that Judge Moran would simply kill himself with that workload. After we got another judge in the 16th district, it's true, Judge Moran's workload went down. The workload of Judge Empson wasn't as heavy either. What did Judge Moran do? He came and asked if he couldn't be given an additional territory for his district and he was. The idea that we don't do anything about judicial redistricting, to me, is silly. If you look at the book and you see how many times we have visited the statutes that set out the judicial districts for the district court in the State of Nebraska, I think you'll be surprised. We visited it in 1975, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986, how often should we do it? LB 1237 sets out a process for continuing to do it, but with different considerations than what you see in 1059. LB 1059 does not produce any kind of a system, so what you'll have in this Legislature is a continuing kind of fractious discussion that we're starting to have here today which has not always been directed to the merits of either piece of legislation. Now if you want to continue to have that kind of debate and that fractiousness and, in part, that misguided intentions, then maybe 1059 is something you'll want to do. But I would much prefer to have a system that consistently evaluated the problem of judicial redistricting and produced recommendations to the Legislature. I don't think we do a very good job of making those decisions on our own. And I started talking about the problems that I see with 1059 a little bit earlier and, quite frankly, I wasn't able to finish so let me bring a couple of other considerations to you. First of all, 1059 would remove judges in a couple of districts, the 12th, the 5th and the 1st district, at some point in the future, not today, not necessarily tomorrow, not necessarily next week and frankly, colleagues, maybe not for a long time because 1059 would remove judges from the system as they died, resigned, retired or were removed. And I know Judge Moran and if we pass this bill, even though Judge Moran is anticipating retiring, I won't ask him to do this, but Judge Moran just might not retire and I don't know