

physically get additional judges through the appropriations process or through a bill here allocating that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Through a bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: But you would keep those same ones. Thank you. And I guess that's what part of our discussion was and maybe the bracket motion may well be successful and that will probably be the last time Senator Wickersham at least will have an opportunity to present his entire bill and I think there is some necessity that he does have this as a priority bill that he be given at least some opportunity to present to you the entire package that he has and then you can make your decision of whether you want to bracket or not, but I do think he deserves that opportunity. But this is true what he has stated before and that is the Legislature should have the opportunity for allocating judicial resources. Under Senator Beutler's bill when there are vacancies there will be elimination of a judge. There will be a, at least in my terms, a denial of access, a further erosion in those three districts for someone to be able to use the judicial system. Now is the courthouse going to close? No, the courthouse is not going to close, but the judge will not be coming there or if he is he'll be coming a lot or she'll be coming a lot less frequently. And that amounts to denial of access because it will be further miles to travel, less often there. You may get a judge once a month. Right now, at least in the areas that I practice, Kearney is always open, always going. If you live in that community you always have access to a judge, but if you go to the southern tier of counties that I represent, you may be lucky to have a district judge there once a month. That means people wait once a month to have their temporary hearings heard and divorce actions. That means that they wait once a month to have criminal arraignments in district court and so on. If you lose judges in those types of areas, of course, there would just be a little longer. It might be six weeks, it might be seven weeks and the concept that Senator Wickersham has presented to you, which I think is valid, is the Resources Commission which wouldn't place the judges, but puts their recommendations back to this body so this body can decide do we move that judge, do we eliminate that judge or what do we do with the judicial resource? And I think that's appropriately the place it should be. This may be the only opportunity that I have to speak to that. I think that the body should recognize that Senator Wickersham does have a concept here that places the control back in the Legislature...