

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. My bill indeed is in the committee amendments for a seventh district judge in Lancaster County. I think many of you will remember last year that I had that bill, it was my priority bill, and it got clear up to the Governor's desk and he vetoed it. Our case for Lancaster County was not what he vetoed. Some other things had been added, including a pay raise for the judges and that was why the Governor would not sign the bill. But the case was made and still can be made very easily for a seventh judge in Lancaster County. There are a variety of reasons why we need one. One in particular is that there are so many...the administrative appeals from the agencies, the state agencies are handled through the Attorney General's Office, and for convenience sake they go through the District Court of Lancaster County. That adds to the workload, that adds a heavy burden to the workload. If we have a long murder case, for instance, as we had on Candace Harms last year, one judge, of course, spends all his time on that, and so the other five are again dividing up the workload. We are at the point, in Lancaster County, where the judges feel that divorce cases, everything are being backlogged so badly that they cannot keep up. And these judges work hard, let me tell you they carry their load. And the other thing about the administrative appeals, there's a lot of reading there that's not evident to the public, it isn't a big, visible, high profile trials or anything like what we're seeing in Las Angeles or even in a murder trial here in Nebraska. So a lot of that...a lot of that work is not visible, but it is very important work and we have to...Lancaster County has to do it. So I can give you all kinds of information, if you'd like it, but we have been through this before. You might say it's deja vu all over again, it's the third time for my Lancaster County judge bill. So I do hope you'll vote for the committee amendment because then it will fold into the Sarpy County side of it and we can proceed with the bill as a whole. I took it as my priority because I do feel strongly that this is the year that we should solve these problems in the larger counties. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Lindsay, do you wish to close? Closing is waived. The question before you is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 189. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay.