

thought I'd call that to your attention. Special consideration for special people.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers, for that information. Senator Withem. Senator Withem, on the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I rise to support the amendment at this point. During the last couple of weeks, I became increasingly distressed with the way we were dealing with the judges' issue this session. And we appear to have kind of a separation of powers sort of difficulty going on here where the Governor had a preference to have all of the bills brought to him on an individual basis. Legislatively, we had a rationale that it would be better to deal with these all in one piece. And I think what this amendment does is it does that. It takes what will be the...hopefully, if the amendment passes, will be the recommendations by the Legislature this year for meeting the judicial needs of the state. And I do support that. It's my understanding that in addition to the Douglas County juvenile situation that this bill deals with, we'll also be dealing with the Sarpy County juvenile situation and with the Lancaster district court position. So I am supportive of that and would urge the members of the body to support this amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I want very much to support this amendment because judges are needed in certain places very badly. But having said that, I cannot support this amendment. This is, in one aspect, and I'm certain not intended by the introducers, but a by-product of the bill, in one aspect is the very worst bill we could pass. It is the very worst bill we could pass because everything we've been trying to do to get the judicial system to be more efficient in terms of filling vacancies and looking at vacancies and not assigning judges where they're not needed, everything will have gone in a complete historic cycle and we will be back to 1980, and we will have made no process on pressuring the bar and the judicial system to be efficient. And let me tell you why that is so. The Judicial Resources Commission was supposed to be the commission that took care of seeing that we judiciously and wisely, economically allocated resources across the state. There was no such commission until the mid 1980s. That commission came into existence in response to certain senators who said the system doesn't work, the current system doesn't