

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this amendment is going to make very controversial a bill whose intent is to add a juvenile judge in Douglas County. Any bill that comes to the floor becomes a vehicle which anybody can use or any combination of senators can use to try to amend or achieve any purpose they desire. That I am not criticizing, I am not complaining about, nor am I objecting to it. But a struggle is going on at this point between two differing philosophies that have nothing to do with adding a juvenile judge in Douglas County. There are going to be attempts to weight this bill down and that has been done with other bills. And other people have had bills to which I have tried to add something that would be considered additional weight, so I'm not complaining about that, nor am I objecting to it. But this is what I will request of you, look beyond the fact that my name is on the bill, consider what its original purpose was, and if you're not willing to vote for a veto override, I would ask you not to put these things on the bill that would encourage the Governor to veto it. There is another bill, LB 189, which deals with judges, and load that one up if you want to. Load them both up and the Governor can veto them both and we can try to override them, but he may not send them back to us in time for an attempt to override. If you're persuaded that Douglas County needs an additional juvenile judge, I am persuaded of that or I would not have offered a bill to achieve that purpose. If you're convinced of that, consider the realities of the political process of which we all are a part. This bill is becoming highly politicized by virtue of the amendments that will be added, if they are added. And should the bill go down to defeat as a result of a veto which we're not given the opportunity to override, I'll bring a bill back next session and it will be loaded up and vetoed again, and I'll bring it the following session provided I'm still a member of the Legislature. At this point, I'm not going to argue one way or the other strenuously on the amendment except to say that Senator Beutler makes what to me is a compelling point. By abolishing the commission and at the same time allowing things to happen without the Legislature taking any part in it whatsoever is not a wise policy move, in my opinion. Much discussion about the reallocation of judges has as much to do with convenience to lawyers and judges as it has to do with making the courts open and available to the citizens. The citizens have no input in this issue because, by and large, they