

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, hopefully, this is not a particularly controversial amendment, but you never know, I guess, on the subject matter so I'll plow forward. What I understand the goal of the Brashear amendment is to have the Judicial Resources Commission improve their system of...of reports on judicial activity. That's one of the debates we've had all along in here as to whether those are accurate numbers or whether they aren't, whether the filing of a divorce case in one district is the same as in another one, and this is an attempt to add more precision. I'm looking at a laundry list of things that we are asking the Judicial Resources Commission to consider; time spent on administrative tasks, time spent on research and writing, time spent on travel, weighting of case categories, the impact of law clerks, referees, bailiffs, all of those other things. I'm always concerned when I see a laundry list that that may be construed as being the only thing that can be considered by the...by whoever we're dictating to. What my amendment does is it adds language after line 24 that states, the listing of the above factors does not preclude the Judicial Resources Commission from considering other factors in improving the reporting of judicial activities. You know, maybe, you know, the amount of time spent commuting from...to work is one thing that needs to be considered, I don't know. Implementation of administrative tasks like the sorts of federal laws that are dictated by people who have to comply with affirmative action and all of those sorts of things. There may be a multitude of other factors that aren't listed in here. All this amendment does is say to the Judicial Resources Commission these are some suggestions, they're more than suggestions, these are things for you to consider but you can also consider other factors also. I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Lindsay to speak to the Withem amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I...I have no objection to the Withem amendment. I think it's a...it is a good clarifying amendment. But I did want to talk on the amendment itself. I don't know if anybody has spoken against it but I do have concerns with it. One of the reasons is, and it goes back, I think we have to look at the battle that's been fought on this redistricting issue, reallocation of resources issue, and the bottom line with it is we have to look at how much we have in the way of resources that are going to the