

county court, there is overlap additionally on that. It is 10, 11, 10, 2 and 4. So, again, what I have included is that weighted system where both of them get that increase. Again, we must look at what we are doing and looking at the dollars that we have to spend. This is somewhat of a reduction in what many of the other proposals have been. We're not giving...I don't feel it's adequate to give those judges those type of increases. I have tried to look in and get data. I think what has happened and I want to substantiate that, but if you look over the history of judges' salaries, sure, they don't get them every year like state employees, but when they get one it makes up. Instead of the 3 percent every year, they may get 6 or 12 percent at one time, which, in essence, does continually make up for the salary increase that keeps them ahead. Some of the indications show that their salary increases have been slightly above that of state workers. I first want to substantiate that and find out those statistics, but if that is the case, we are taking care of our judges quite well. There's always been stated, those judges, that we're pulling them out of private practice. Well, it appears that every time there's a vacancy, there are quite a few attorneys out there looking to get into the system because they're taken care of then for life, once they've been...got into those positions. So, with that, I will try to answer any questions. The information is before you. I ask that you give this consideration and will try to any questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Avery. Is there any discussion of the Avery amendment? Seeing none, Senator Avery to close.

SENATOR AVERY: Sure hope that's an indication of a lot of support. In terms of this type of an increase, I think that we need to truly look at what I'm proposing. There's...we should not blindly just give increases across the board. What I am trying to do is look at the caseload and we've got an average caseload of in the neighborhood of 600 cases for the judges. It just seems adequate those that are considerably over that, and there's quite a few counties that are over that, that they be compensated accordingly. So it's important that we consider that caseload as well as the dollars that we have. The Appropriations has put in an amount. I don't feel that that is adequate...or accurate amount and I feel that we should start cutting some. This isn't an appropriation bill but it will spend money. There is an additional amount of dollars being