

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, this is AM2234. It should be on your desk. This is the amendment that I guess the opinion or viewpoint would be the compromise amendment or the capitulation amendment, I guess depending on just how you view it, that it's difficult, I think...let me just first off explain what the bill (sic) does. The first section is the provision which increases the salary rate for judges. Section 2 adds a district judge in Sarpy County effective January 1 of '97. Sections...from there on it deals with the...well, Section 5 in particular requires the State Court Administrator to compile uniform and accurate statistics. The thrust of this or the goal of this is to get uniform reporting, uniform report of statutes being compiled or data being compiled so that a case filed in one district means the same thing as a case filed in another district. For example, there are some districts that might file a criminal count if you violate three different sections of law, might file that as three separate cases, whereas in another district they might be consolidated and only be filed as one case, so that one court might have three more...two more filings than another court. The intention of this provision is to eliminate those types of discrepancies so that when we're looking at the data it means the same thing regardless of where you're sitting. There is...the State Administrator's Office has received a grant to do a study of the...a grant from the National Center for State Courts, I believe, to do a study that they indicated will be done by October 1 of this year to get...to arrive at that, the goal being to get some uniform case reportings, some uniform data compilations, so that at least, hopefully, next year when we're...when we're talking about this again, and as we will year after year, when we're talking about this that at least we, hopefully, won't hear that argument, well, the statistics are skewed because you're not reporting this and you're not reporting that, that we'll have one set of data. The Section 6 is a provision which will require a couple of things and that is, well, Section 6, 7, 8 and 9, I guess, would be the intent...would be the operative sections of reallocation of resources, if you will. Requires a couple of things, one is the Judicial Resources Commission would meet annually and look at the entire system and make recommendations. Do we need more judges, less judges? If we have the judges we have, what will be the proper and efficient allocation of judges within that...within that system? It will also require on a vacancy that the Judicial Resources would meet, take a look at the data, take a look at...hear the testimony, and would make a