

amendment which will address a couple of technical concerns and beyond that we should be able to work, I hope we're able to work through the process this afternoon and bring this issue to a resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend the Lindsay amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I have just a couple amendments that I want to suggest to you and I want to suggest them to you because I think this does, this situation affords a unique opportunity. If one of these two amendments is attached to the bill, you can have real reform and it will stay attached to the bill of course because judicial salaries are a part of the amendment. So you have an opportunity here to really listen and think this through and hopefully come to the same conclusion I do that this system can be made better. I want to comment again on the caseloads and now we discover they have some value but not as much value as we thought, but I'll comment on that later. But let me explain, first of all, the amendment that is before you right now. You remember that under the Lindsay amendment we have divided things into these two piles and the heavily worked districts, the vacancy is just filled there, nothing happens. The half of the districts that are underworked the Judicial Resources Commission would work in its old way. It would have a hearing, decide where the vacancy goes and that would...and that recommendation would stand. What this amendment does is says with regard to the commission's review, just of these districts that are at the lower end of the caseload that with regard to that review whatever their determination is it will be subject to legislative approval. And that basically is the only change. It's a small change, but it's a change that could make all the difference. It means simply that they would do their work and then whatever their recommendation was would come back here to the Legislature for action by the Legislature. Now you can argue well that takes too much time. The judicial vacancy won't be filled for several months. Well that's true except don't forget that you're working with the districts that are the underworked half. There's no imperative there that a judge be