

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, and that's who we are today. But you agree with the change that LB 189 is making in this instance?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I agree that we should add a judge to the second judicial district court.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, now, Senator Wickersham, what is the difference between the testimony given and accepted that resulted in this change, what is the difference between that kind of information and the information given in the past when such changes were not made or recommended by this commission, if you know?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I, Senator, I only attended one of the commission's meetings, and I have not reviewed the transcripts of other proceedings except for one partial transcript that had to do with Lancaster County two years ago.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, in other parts of this bill, don't we talk about specific things that are done to gather statistics, we weight various things in looking at caseload, and so forth?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, there are additional provisions in 189 calling upon the Court Administrator's Office to produce weighted caseloads statistics. That is part of an ongoing study by the court, in part funded by state dollars, \$25,000 in the current biennium's budget, and in part by a grant from a national organization, I am afraid I am going to misstate their name, but the court is already under...that study is underway. Consultants have been brought in and the work is underway.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now is it necessary to have legislation with regard to that study, since it is already underway, in your opinion?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I think it is appropriate for the Legislature to give direction. The direction in the legislation is to the Judicial Resources Commission, and not directly to the court, but I am sure that the court will share the information with the Judicial Resources Commission.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Beutler, may I ask you a question on this same area. Are you persuaded that this additional judge is needed?