

of those, 19,000 cases were domestic relations cases. In addition, that category identified as reopened cases, also includes a lot of domestic action...domestic relations...related cases. So, this bill would allow the county courts, in certain circumstances, to help with the workload of the district courts on these kinds of cases. It applies to any uncontested case. It would also apply to contested cases unless there was a motion by either party to transfer it to the district court. In that case it would come back to the district court where they were in the first instance. And that's really what it's all about. The Bar Association is all right on it. I think everybody's feeling good about it. It's especially helpful to the rural areas because where you have great distances and travel time and a district judge may not be in your neighborhood for a while, it's good for protective orders that you need quickly and other kinds of actions and even for divorce actions themselves, to be able to enlist the county judge to settle the matter and not have to wait for the district judge to come around on the circuit. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: For debate on the bill, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Wow, it may be a little amendment, but it's like, say we're just going to add one more state. This is a major change and what I told Senator Beutler I was going to do was just make sure that it didn't just calmly go across the water because Senator Beutler and I are going to talk about this between General and Select File. But, I want to tell you there's a whole lot of other things we ought to consider about this. One is that this is the beginning of combining the court systems, the county and district court systems, in the state. That is either a good policy or that's a bad policy. That's not my purpose. It's that it's the beginning of a major change in our system and for it to occur on Consent Calendar is more than I can take at this point. But, what I think that we also need to consider, and Senator Beutler, I am...this is my only time to visit. I'm concerned about the judgments that occur for child support. Are we going to run child support through the county court system? Could I ask...Mr. President, could I ask Senator Beutler a question, please?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Are we going to run child support and those