

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question then is, shall the committee amendments be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Janssen, you would be recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. LB 1249 is a bill which would basically allow the process of advance jury selection to be resumed in courts of the state. Advanced jury selection means that jurors in this...in a case can be chosen prior to the time of trial. This procedure has been used in several counties in the state in the past. The counties use this procedure to choose the juries for the entire month on the first day of the month. The possible jurors were all called in on one date and the jurors needed for each case that month would be selected. The jurors selected would then only be required to return to the court for a specific case unless the case settled in the meantime. This method provided advantages to the counties. This process saved the counties significant costs because the entire panel of possible juries...jurors only had to be...to appear on one day together rather than having to be recalled again and again during the month as each case came up for trial. This, in turn, allowed jurors to be selected more quickly and efficiently (sic) with less cost to the counties. This process also allowed a specific date to be set for the commencement of a trial. Therefore, the parties, witnesses and jurors knew exactly when they would have to return for the trial. However, a recent Nebraska Supreme Court decision said that this process of advanced jury selection created problems for possible juror misconduct due to the lapse in time prior to the trial and said that this process could no longer be used. Denying the counties the ability to use this process has cost the counties the use of a process which could save both the courts and the parties significant costs. Now a court must be impaneled and the entire jury pool each time a case comes up for trial so a large pool of possible jurors may be required to appear multiple times. This costs both time and money to attorneys and to the counties. It has also created a serious scheduling difficulty for the court, parties, witnesses,