

the idea is that by delaying the effective date of the principal portions of the bill until October 1st of 1997, that we will have an opportunity to come back next January and address those issues, if they need to be addressed, and perhaps some of them do, but the fact of the matter is that we don't have time to do that today. There isn't any consensus about what needs to be addressed or how it needs to be addressed, and certainly that would be a much more complex amendment. The essential idea behind Senator Beutler's bill that we hope would go forward today is that there are some issues that can, currently assigned exclusively to the district court, that can be assigned or decided by the county courts, and that that, perhaps, is a tool for balancing out the workloads between the two courts. Senator Beutler, I hope I haven't unfairly characterized what the thrust of the bill in the main is. I think the amendments that we are offering are consistent with your objectives, and if you want a little bit of the opening time, I will yield to you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham, you are yielding time to Senator...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Beutler.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...to Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: How much time is there, Senator?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There is about six and a half minutes, eleven and a half minutes on the bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, as with all these bills on consent, the reasonable suggestions of others, for a number of reasons, must be accepted, and in this particular case, I think that the suggestion that Senator Kristensen made and the suggestions that Senator Wickersham made and the questions they raise are, in fact, legitimate questions. Most of them, I think it is fair to say, have to do with procedural details of how the courts will work out the details, none of which I think is a problem, but all of which is...constitute fair questions. And this particular amendment I think is a good one, and a very reasonable suggestion, and I am glad to have it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator