

SENATOR BEUTLER: Could you read the amendment, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: The Beutler amendment would add the following new section. "Section 31 All ambiguities in this act are hereby made clear and those responsible for such ambiguities shall never hereafter amend a Beutler bill."

(Laughter)

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm kidding my friends, Senator Wickersham and Senator Kristensen, who I must say if they had not amended my bill it would not be here politically today so I am grateful for their amendment. But at the same time, some outside parties asked us to clarify one little ambiguity that snuck in with the amendment. The bill allows district judges to work with consenting county judges so that those county judges can hear, you may recall, domestic relation type cases. And the previous law also said that the parties involved in these actions had to consent. And what we want to make clear is that the consent that's no longer required is the consent of the parties. The consent of the county judge is still required, and I would give one minute of my time to Senator Wickersham and another minute to Senator Kristensen, if he's here, just so that the introducers of the amendment can confirm that particular intent. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Beutler has correctly stated what the intent is and, again, I might remind the body that these...this process is confined to those Chapter 42 proceedings which includes dissolutions and other items related to the marital relationship. But it is, as Senator Beutler said, intended to be a rather narrow exception that just in those Chapter 42 actions that we would not require the consent of the parties to have a district judge assign a matter to a consenting county judge. So that is, Senator Beutler, a correct interpretation.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, for what purpose?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, I don't see Senator Kristensen so with that at this point I would withdraw the motion.