

district judge traveling a significant distance. Beyond that, though, I also think it's possible to attain some efficiencies from time to time even in the metropolitan area where you may be short on district judges from time to time. All that's required is a degree of cooperation. Now you may recall the way the bill has been amended now for a two-year period the county judges have to consent to the process. And then during that two-year period, there will be further discussions about the terms of applicability I guess of the new condition and certainly some additional discussion about the administration of the clerks of the county court and the clerks of the district court with respect to where documents will be filed and that kind of thing. But I think there's a commitment on the part, certainly on the part of the courts, the court system and the bar and interested parties to go through that process; and I'm sure there will be further tailoring of this particular concept, Senator.

SENATOR ABOUD: Well, that's the answer I was hoping to hear. I think that the basic concept of what you're trying to do with the bill is good. But there are responsibilities for these county judges. They have...a lot of them have a very lusy caseload as well and simply shifting things around may not be...it may be okay in some areas of the state but it may not work out in other portions of the state where they do have responsibilities. And you may have a district court judge that may not...may not want to carry the caseload that the state Legislature may think that he should carry and he may try to pass it on to county judges. And I think we have an obligation to ensure that there's an equal and proper distribution of the caseload. So I guess that's my concern and it sounds like you're willing to discuss this next session.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I would actually look forward to your input from your experience with regard to how it should be applied.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. Thank you. Mr. President, I'd like to withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The motion is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, anything further?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Nothing further on the bill.