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recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just want to be sure I understand this bill completely. The public hearing process, of course, obviously is a process that's set up mainly to hear from the public. And as you change it to videoconferencing, which you may want to do from time to time for the convenience of the public, nonetheless, it loses some of its vibrancy and some of its reality when it comes from a real public hearing to a videoconference, and now what's being suggested to you in this bill is that some of these public hearings can be by telephone conference. And the way this bill is worded, the telephone conference would pertain only to part of the situations that would be dealt with by this particular commission. The telephone conference would be available to the commission only in situations where the judicial workload statistics indicate a need for a number of judges equal to or greater than the current...the currently authorized. So, in other words, as I understand this language, if you're in a position where you may be adding judges, you can do this by telephone conference. If you're in a position, apparently, where you may want to subtract judges, you need some kind of higher quality conference. I thought that Senator Brashear indicated on the floor that this would only pertain when there was no controversy, or no debate, or no change was being made. But, by the language of the bill, it seems to indicate that it would pertain where a change could be made adding judges, and thereby adding costs to the state and to the overall system. There may be controversy in adding judges, as well as controversy in taking away judges. And so, for that reason, I don't see the rationale of the distinction. And I would like to ask Senator Brashear to elaborate on that distinction and to further describe how the public participates in a telephone conference? That is, do you say they go to this person or that person's office and sit down and be on a speaker phone involved in the conference? How...I mean it's a lot more awkward to do that and a lot more difficult for the public, I believe, and a lot more intimidating for the public. So, I would like to hear a little bit further on both of those points, Senator Brashear, if I may. And I would give you the remainder of my time for that purpose.