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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. This came to me from the judges of the Workers' Comp Court. You'll find it on your machine. I distributed a variation of it earlier today, but this is...there's been a slight change of the wording but not intent. Judges have pay raises that go into effect when there is a change of term, and that means an opening on the bench that somebody fills. Workers' comp judges are at that level in our hierarchy in which they are paid the same as district judges. Juvenile judges are paid the same as district judges. All three are paid the same. When there is an opening or a salary change for juvenile judges or district judges, the trigger for when that goes into effect is an opening on the district judge bench. Even if they're...it's for the juvenile judges, the trigger is the district court bench. So you have three kinds of courts all of the same pay scale and two of the courts have the same trigger--juvenile judges and district judges--and the trigger is an opening on the district court bench. This amendment says that that same trigger would be used for workers' comp judges as well. There are 7 of them; there are 49 district judges. That's probably the nature of the reason they asked for this change. However, here's what it does. It takes the three kinds of judges that are at this tier and, instead of having two different triggers, one that applies for district judges and juvenile judges and the other that only applies for Workers' Comp Court judges, all three sets of judges that appear at this level of funding in salary will have exactly the same trigger, and that is an opening on the district court bench. That's the amendment that I offer. It's AM1577. It's on your monitor. A variation of it has been on your desk this morning and I would ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Landis. Discussion on AM1577 to LB 216, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, I just rise to