

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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LB 414

debate takes us and what opportunity, a motion to suspend the rules to cancel a hearing date will be added onto the agenda and we'll take that up this morning. We'll next move on the agenda to LB 414. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 414, by Senator Beutler. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13 of last year, at that time referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Judiciary Committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM2008, Legislative Journal page 508.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, this is a bill that's been in progress for four years. It was introduced four years ago, originally, and two years ago, you may recall, we actually voted on it, and it had about 22 or 23 votes and didn't quite make it. I brought it back last year again with some further refinements, at which point in time the Supreme Court indicated that they really would like to see the concept happen, but they thought it needed a few more refinements. And so I held it and worked with it another year. And finally now, at this point in time, I think it has been refined as much as it possibly can be refined, both in terms of fine-tuning with respect to technical aspects, but also with respect to accommodating all the different interest groups that do have an interest in this particular bill. I think we have made every reasonable accommodation that we possibly could. And I think it's fair to say that there is a broad consensus now that the bill is in the best form it can be in and, I think, generally supported, certainly strongly supported by the Supreme Court and supported by the district judges, supported by most of the clerks of the...of the court, and I think generally by a majority of all the different groups involved. It seeks to improve the operations of the judicial branch of government in three ways. First of all, the clerks of the district court would hereafter be appointed by the judges that they work for, and they would no longer be elected. So currently, in most places in the state, those particular positions are elected, but the point to me is that they're managerial in nature, they are