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LB 760

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Mines on AM1946.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. This is my priority bill. And it should be no surprise to anyone in this body that I had absolutely nothing to do with crafting this legislation. No, I'm teasing. I want to thank Senator Brashear for taking the time and the effort, and his staff, for assembling and crafting a bill that includes significant corrections, changes, and enhancements to the judiciary. You know, it does include court training and education. And I believe that if in fact Nebraskans deserve quality in the courts, quality in their judiciary, that we must afford them...our judges and the employees, the ability to further their education and further their training. The judge retirement program, I think Senator Brashear has more than covered that. It's not something that we should do; it's something that we must do. And Senator Connealy's bill, the Public Advocacy, is obviously a plus. Dispute resolution, nonjudicial days where we can actually close courts and save money. And I think most of all, we're asking the cost causers to be the cost payers. This is done through a mechanism of assessments to our filing fees and user fees, and it just simply makes great sense to me. And even if this weren't my priority bill, I would wholeheartedly support that. Given that, Senator Brashear, I would yield my time, if you would like the remainder.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, is...did you wish to use Senator Mines' time, Senator Brashear? He waives that opportunity. Senator Brashear, your light is next anyhow. He waives that time. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I also support this bill, especially the component requiring judicial education. Because as any practicing lawyer knows, a lawyer presenting a case is no smarter than the judge hearing the case. A lawyer could have encyclopedic knowledge of the law, and have every fact of the case down pat, but if you have a dumbbell for a judge, it's all for naught. So this training and education component I think is very important. On Senator