TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

January 26, 2006 LB 529

for e-filing. And Senator Beutler brought that up, it's there now on the federal court system. And without some jurisdiction over these county...or, district court clerks, it's going to be very difficult to provide that uniformity. And I defend my county court...or, my county clerks who are ex officio. They're good people and they do their job. But there also is the question of how, when the county court magistrate is gone and so on, timeliness and whatnot. I can see now that if we could get this through some electronic filing process, that I could go file, say, a claim in small claims court, and I might not have a person to do that in the office, but a big reason we're studying this issue, Senator Beutler has put so much time in it, is that uniformity and being able to file these things electronically. And I know there's some resistance out there, but folks, we got to step up here. And I have a bill in Committee Transportation Telecommunications dealing with PSAPs and so on. We're going to have to get up to speed here. The technology is out there and we need to provide some uniformity across county lines, and in this case statewide, for electronic filing in district courts. It's there now in federal courts. And somebody, I believe, mentioned they were used in a number...3 counties out of 90; 3 that we having problems with... I don't know what the number is, but there is that resistance to move forward, and this bill would provide some uniformity. And Senator Beutler, I don't remember. I was asking questions about the merger process. If you want my time,... I know that there are a lot of lights on. I don't...how much time do I have left?

SENATOR CUDABACK: About 1, 25.

SENATOR BAKER: I guess I'd like to ask Senator Beutler a question or two, back to the conversion over, the process. There's some concern out there in my rural counties, I'm getting e-mailed as we speak. They're watching us. They're listening. Anyway, in the case of a vacant seat in the county court magistrate's office, there would be an option, according to this handout we have, they don't have out there, to go ahead and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...if...with the judge's recommendation, I think