

and Labor Committee, with Senator Barrett who has been extremely helpful. We had interim studies on it all over the summer and came up with many, many ideas and LB 18 is the final draft we hope of some changes that are long overdue for the compensation court. Let me just kind of walk you through the bill. There is some very important things in the bill. Section 1 essentially says that if an employee, an injured employee, ends up in the compensation court because he was injured and the company feels there is some dispute as to the amount of the award he should be receiving or some question of fact, if he ends up in the court, which is less than 1%, by the way, of all employees that are injured on the job, but if he is part of that less than 1% that goes in the compensation court, if he goes to the court and he wins an award, if the court determines that he was injured on the job, he does deserve some compensation, then if, and only if he wins, and only on the amount of award he wins, an attorney's fee shall be awarded. Now that is entirely, the amount is entirely left to the discretion of the court. The amendments we adopted took out the minimum 15% attorney fee. That was on page 2. So that is out of the bill. We took out the minimum. We went straight with the court shall award attorney's fees only if the employee wins an award and the amount is to be determined at the discretion of the court. And further, if the injured employee does win in court, and if there is some stalling involved, or if it has taken a long time, certain conditions have to be met, then interest on that award can be granted by the court again at the rate that we set under our Section 48-5104.01 that we annually adjust in the Legislature for judgments and things under the court. Now some other things that LB 18 does is it increases the number of compensation court judges from five to six and you will notice in the handouts that I passed out earlier, you will notice the compensation court's caseload and I compared it with the county court and the district court because they are similar, on the same level, essentially, as the compensation court and you will notice the increase. Now since 1977 the compensation court has realized a 44% increase in the number of cases brought before it. The county court 11% increase and the district court only 8. We have five judges on the compensation court and we have backlogs and statistics are just clear as day that we need another judge on that compensation court. Also the adjudication statistic sheet is handed out to you and that is very self-explanatory as well the caseload analysis sheet from '81 to '82. So that is another thing that LB 18 does is it provides for a sixth judge. Another thing that LB 18 does is it allows