

And the employers willingly agreed and the employees agreed also. So what I did when I looked at changing some of the compensation court rules, I looked at how fair the system of the court was, the procedural matters in the court and LB 18 tries to address some of those problems that I found existing in the court when I first began looking at the procedures. There was a real problem in employees and employers who eventually ended up going to court because they disagreed on whether or not the employee was truly hurt in the scope and practice of that employment. They disagreed whether the amount the employer agreed to pay was an adequate amount or too much of an award.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR KILGARIN: So they end up in court. But only half a percent of the entire cases of people being hurt on the job end up in court so we are talking about a very small percentage of those cases. So what I did is went back and looked at those cases and the adjudication time on those cases is up to about 14 weeks now. There is lots of stalling and lots of delays by attorneys and by the clients who are in the court arguing the cases. So what I did was look at those particular ways to make that case go through the court a little bit faster. LB 18 in conjunction of working with the insurance agents of the state and people who are concerned both with the employers and the employees got together and LB 18 is what we came up with. Both sides, labor and business, support LB 18 now. Because it will expediate those cases, the settling of those cases. It provides for a settlement conference. It provides for some additional fees to be awarded when the employee or the employer wins and it provides for a sixth judge. With the amendment you just adopted the fiscal impact has been reduced from about 99 thousand to about 70 thousand so we have reduced the fiscal impact by about 30 thousand dollars and the fiscal impact is about 70 thousand dollars. So LB 18 is really a culmination of two years of hard work both with the industry and laboring people who work in that industry. I would appreciate your support of LB 18 as amended. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kilgarin, I'm sorry, but she only gave you five minutes, do you want more time? All right, fine. Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. I rise in wholehearted support of LB 18. When the bill first appeared on General File some time ago I was somewhat hesitant as perhaps some of you know. Since that