

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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to LB 350 prior apply here. This is the beginning of the process. Of course there's fiscal consequence to this. It will be a part of the reconciliation. Your Judiciary Committee has brought this forward unani...again unanimously by those present. I urge its advancement. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. For discussion.... Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend. (See FA20 on page 560 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator (sic) Maurstad, members of the Legislature, Senator Brashear, this is a bill that has no climax. And my amendment is going to give this bill a climax. What this bill does is to bring the county judges much closer to the level of the salary of the district court judges, of the juvenile court judges, who, by the way, the work of juvenile court judges, in most jurisdictions, is done by county judges, and the workers' comp judges, they're all at 92.5 percent of the Supreme Court salary. So I got to reading this bill, and it said, in the year 2000 it would go to 88 percent of the salary; in the year 2001 it would go to 89 percent, and I'm thinking we're going to get up to 92.5 percent. And the next year, 2002, it goes to 90 percent and then it just stops. So what my amendment does is to say in the year 2003, it will go all the way to 92.5 percent, so it's the same as the district judges, same as the workers' comp judges, same as the juvenile court judges, and we get to where I think we're going. We get all the way to the end of the process. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense, if you think about it, to be closing this differential on the basis of the factors that we have and then simply stop at 90 percent, so the difference is between 90 percent and 92.5 percent. I would like to see somebody explain to me why the permanent difference in this matter should be 2.5 percent. It just has no logic to it whatsoever. And it makes me suspect that maybe it's an artificial conclusion of a political compromise of sorts among parties involved. But we're not a part of the parties involved, we're supposed to do what makes sense. And I think what makes sense is to continue the