

March 14, 1985

LB 373, 421

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on LB 421? If not, the motion is to advance the bill from General File. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We're voting on the advancement of LB 421 from General File to Enrollment and Review for Review. Please record your vote. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 421.

PRESIDENT: 421 is advanced. LB 373.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 373 was a bill that was introduced by Senator Beutler. (Title read.) It was read on January 18, referred to Judiciary, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill essentially just increases the jurisdiction of the small claims court from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and then allows the Supreme Court to adjust it every fifth year after that based on the consumer price index. The small claims court, of course, is just that. It hears small claims and it is limited by a jurisdictional amount and that jurisdictional amount originally, back in 1972 when the court was set up, was \$500. It was increased to \$1,000 in 1979. I think that was the first bill I introduced in the Legislature. And then...we're proposing now that it be increased to \$1,500 and I want to assure you that that increase, which is supported by the Bar Association by the way, simply reflects the increase in the consumer price index from the last time it was increased until the present time. So basically it's keeping the jurisdictional amount the same in a philosophic sense, but increasing the dollar amount because of inflation. That's all the bill does. I would move its advancement.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman, do you wish to speak on this bill, Senator Beutler's 373?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I would urge you to support this bill. It's a good bill. It's going to help everybody and we urge that you advance it