

think I understand that portion which has to do with the division of the type of damages and making different provisions for different types of damages, although philosophically I do not agree with that, but subsection 5, starting on line 15, first page of your amendments, indicates that there is going to be no prejudgment interest or defense expenses allowed if an action is completed within the time specified by the Nebraska Supreme Court standards or guidelines for the progression of civil cases in existence on the effective date of this act. Could you tell me what those guidelines are right now?

SENATOR LANDIS: In fact, while I have seen them printed, I don't have a copy with me. They run to about a year's time in most cases that I can recall off the top of my head. It is commonly available. I will try to get it for you in the event it is of interest to you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess my main question is that I think we ought to be awfully careful about adopting a provision like this because I am not sure those guidelines are very exact with regard to a particular kind of case.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Marge has been very kind to hand me something I did previously send out. Under the current Supreme Court guidelines, civil jury cases must be completed in 18 months, and so nonjury cases must be completed within 12 months.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, Senator Landis, right now we have six months from the date of the filing of the petition is when the prejudgment interest begins, correct? So you are suggesting there is going to be no prejudgment interest for 12 months in the case of a nonjury trial and 18 months for a jury trial, is that right?

SENATOR LANDIS: No, if you read the qualifying language of Section 2 and 3, Senator Beutler, that refers to the punitive award of prejudgment interest. It does not modify subsection 4. In other words, prejudgment interest on the limited form of damages will run without regard to how long it takes to take the case to court. The punitive application of prejudgment interest will be on the entire award.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Wait a minute, now we have no punitive