

that county and puts it in the hands of the Supreme Court, is that correct?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, that is kind of a broad statement, Senator Lamb. I don't think it does that. It allows the county judges to make these appointments. It provides that one magistrate, clerk, can serve more than one county for reasons of efficiency, and if a clerk magistrate is to serve more than one county, why it is appointed by the county judges affected.

SENATOR LAMB: Okay, on page 2 of the bill up there on lines 4 through 9, it says, "There shall be appointed" ..okay, starting on line 6, "The Supreme Court shall by rule designate which counties may be served by the same clerk magistrate, assigning one person to as many counties as is deemed reasonable." So from what I see there, the Supreme Court then really does have authority over which counties are served by a piece of what was an associate judge, now would be a clerk magistrate.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes.

SENATOR LAMB: So the county itself would really...would the county have any authority in deciding whether or not they needed an associate judge or a clerk magistrate?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: They would have some authority, Senator Lamb, certainly. Under the current statute each county is to be given one associate county judge whether there is work for that associate county judge or not, and we are attempting to change that system by doing away with the obvious inefficiency of having one where it is not necessary.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, I can understand that and I support efficiencies but I am wondering, we are leaving that judgment as to what is required to the Supreme Court rather than to the local county or county officials or the local people and so that is the part of the bill I sort of question as to whether the counties want to abdicate that right and let the Supreme Court decide how much of a load there is in the county because there are a number of factors, I am sure, that should be taken into consideration, not only the caseload but also distances between counties in some areas. Especially in my district that becomes a factor