

for judgeships. The Supreme Court has authorized changes in their rules relating to the need for conflicts of interest to disqualify those people and we don't have an adequate system of providing replacements and so this bill defines and relates to replacements for alternate members and they are the next highest vote getter in any of the elections because those four members of the lawyer part of the commission are elected by their peers and so this would allow for that. It also would deal with when they could get on and off the commission if they wanted to run for a judge themselves. In the past we've never been able to define that and if you were put on a commission that commission may have never met for two years and if the judgeship came up and you were interested, you wanted to be considered, you were disqualified because you had served for the last two years and you were never on. The demon of that would be that if you were on a commission and you had worked for those people, you might get some preferential treatment. This just gives us a system where we can define what service on the commission is. The bill also does one other thing. And let's say a lawyer is interested in serving as a judge, she would have to file her application within 21 days of when the hearing was, so if she wanted to be a judge, she just couldn't walk in that day and say here I am, I want to be considered. You would have to have three weeks of notice. That's been a problem because you'd never know who was applying and someone could sneak in at the last moment. That's not a good system to deal with. This would require three weeks that you had to have your application in before the hearing. It also requires that that commission has to give notice at least 10 days prior to the hearing about who all the candidates are. So you would want to know who the candidates are, you could come in and make comments about them. This bill is one that would indeed clean up some of the areas. We've had some problems with nominating commissions in the past of getting people to serve. It also would allow particularly for those of us outside of the Omaha and Lincoln area where there aren't enough lawyers in the county to have lawyers from other districts if there aren't enough lawyers in the county to serve on the commission because we just quite frankly have areas where there aren't enough lawyers to serve particularly if they were interested in the judgeship. So it's a good bill for those of us outside that would allow some flexibility to have other members serve on the commission. With that I would ask that LB 251 be moved on to E & R initial. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Seeing no one