

and there will be three at large. This will result in the appointments similar to what the Governor does in any other judgeship other than this will be a unique court because, since it is new, whoever the sitting Governor is will get nine appointments to the bench. The judges must be at least 30 years of age and engaged in the practice of law for at least five years. All the cases that were formerly appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court will now go to the court of appeals except for a body that we have already set out in statutes. That is the life-imprisonment cases, that is in the Consti...or that will be in statute. The death penalty cases by Constitution must go to the Supreme Court. The constitutionality of statutes, what we passed in here, whether they are constitutional or not, those must go to the Supreme Court. If you want to go directly to the Supreme Court,...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...I will outline that procedure in later discussions. I will put my light on, and I assume there is a couple of amendments that we want to discuss. I am not sure if there are any other committee amendments as the board shows. With that, I would ask your adoption of this proposal. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wickersham would move to amend. (See AMO313 on page 1115 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members, or Speaker, excuse me, this is a simple amendment. It has been distributed to you. It is simply designed to allow this court to move around in the state a little bit. It is a fear of mine and many of my constituents, that if we create this intermediate court of appeals panel, that they will always wind up sitting in Lincoln. They will be no more accessible to attorneys across the state than the Supreme Court currently is. The amendment, as I noted, is quite simple. It gives the court discretion to hold its hearings around the state, and adds as a criteria for determining where to hold a hearing the convenience of the litigants and their counsel. I think Doug gave a...or Senator Kristensen gave a good description of how the court of appeals