

grips with them, we're going to have to demand more efficiencies. We demanded those efficiencies a year ago of the legal community. The legal community came back to us and said, no thank you, we are not going to participate in the solving of the problem, it is too complex, just reinstitute what was there before. We cannot do...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...that if we are serious about protecting taxpayers money. I urge support of LB 1059 and, as long as we're at it, rejection of the following bill that simply reinstates the status quo, as far as I can see.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Next light is Senator Lynch. I still don't see Senator Lynch, so we'll move to Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. Parts of this debate are becoming a little bit troubling to me, because I think they constitute red herrings. This is not the Bar Association's bill. I'm happy to have them endorse it, but it was my bill. As a matter of fact, I developed most of the concepts you see here. And it's true, I did borrow from a system that we put in place in 1986, but I also added to it. And I did that for what I consider to be good reasons. Now it's been said that the following bill, LB 1237, does not represent any kind of a solution. That is not accurate, that is not a true depiction of LB 1237. LB 1237 would call for the redistricting, the number of judges to be addressed each time a judge resigns, dies, is removed or otherwise has a vacancy occurring. It calls for a continuing evaluation of the judicial system, at both the county and the district court level. If there are to be any changes made in the system, they have to be ratified by the Legislature, that's the mandate from the Nebraska Supreme Court of last year. LB 1237 is not a do nothing bill, it is not a bill that was presented to me by the Bar Association, it's one that the Bar Association endorsed after I developed it. Now, there are some problems with LB 1059. First of all, of course, it creates large judicial districts. And I think those districts have some inherent problems in them. Potentially you have constitutional problems, because the Constitution requires that judicial districts be compact. Now, quite frankly, nobody knows what compact is. Maybe eventually the Supreme Court will tell us. But if you