



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 984

Chairperson: Senator D. Paul Hartnett
Committee: Urban Affairs
Date of Hearing: January 22, 2002

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 984 provides a process so that a city of the first class can remain a city of the first class even if its population falls below 5,000 as ascertained by the most recent decennial census. The mayor and council may adopt an ordinance to remain a city of the first class and certify enactment of the ordinance to the Secretary of State. If the population of the city falls below 4,000, it must become a city of the second class.

Under current law, a city of the first class is a city with a population between 5,000 and 100,000. The statutory authority and responsibility of a city of the first class is somewhat different than that of other classes of municipalities. When the population of a city of the first class falls below 5,000, the city becomes a city of the second class and has one year to modify its ordinances to comply with state law. LB 984 would allow a city of the first class to continue to be governed by the first class city statutes.

LB 984 is similar to an existing statute, Section 17-310, that provides that the mayor and city council of a city of the second class can decide by ordinance to remain a city of the second class even though its population falls below 800, which is the population line between cities of the second class and villages.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Philip Erdman