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form of government. There's also the home rule charter form of city government if you're interested. But I thought a little background might be helpful to you. The reason LB 71 is important is for the following reasons. Currently, if you have under 40,000 people in your community, you have five members on the city council. Once you cross the 40,000 mark, your city council increases to seven. If you reach 25,000, you are eligible to voluntarily, not mandatory but voluntarily, move from five to seven members on your city council. Why would you do that? As you get larger, more complex issues, subcommittees, quite frankly, to stay in touch with your constituents, you need a larger number of representation and this is an option that you can use. What's the problem if you do that, and the purpose that LB 71 is here? Everyone who is currently sitting on the city council loses their job at that point in time. If you expand from five to seven, everybody, even if you're in the middle of your term, loses their...their spot, so you upset the entire applearc. Practically, nobody will ever expand from five to seven because you'd have seven brand new people, you'd have no continuity. And to encourage this, what LB 71 does is say that, if you expand from five to seven, that the current city council will remain for the rest of their term. So, if they have three years left on their term, two years left on their term, you're not going to turn them out of office because you expand the size of the city council. I didn't believe that was true, I didn't believe that was the current law. It is the current law. This bill has been...this is its second trip. Last year, it was advanced unanimously out of the Government Committee, we just didn't have time to get it debated. It again came out of the Government Committee without a dissenting vote. It provides for some continuity of those elected officials and encourages those cities that have 25,000 people to expand from five to seven. Currently, the only city that that's going to be appropriate to is probably Kearney, as you see the list of the populations here. They'd like to do that in 2002, and they'd like to expand the number of people that can participate in city government. I'd be happy to answer any questions and would yield the remainder of my time back to the Chair.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Debate on the advancement of LB 71? Senator Kristensen, you're recognized to