



One Hundred First Legislature - Second Session - 2010  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 826**

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**Chairperson:** Bill Avery  
**Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Date of Hearing:** January 22, 2010

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

LB 826 directs the Legislature's Planning Committee to develop a plan to reduce the number of counties in Nebraska.

The bill does not specify the details of the plan, nor does it state which counties should be consolidated, how the boundaries should be drawn, or the number of counties that could result. The details remain with the Planning Committee.

The bill includes broad guidelines for the Planning Committee. The guidelines provide that the plan reduce the number of counties to approximately thirty by the year 2018. The bill also includes suggestions for the use of county courthouses and other facilities as remote sites for services, if needed.

The bill encourages counties to continue developing ways to offer their services online to avoid the necessity of personal visits to county offices.

The purpose of reducing the number of counties is to achieve economic efficiencies for taxpayers by reducing the total number of county employees and officials, but maintaining effective local control.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Rich Pahls**