

March 19, 1980

LB 222

investigating that kind of thing into now a routine investigation of all deaths as a normal coroner's office would do. You are just establishing a State Coroners Office and the regional coroners offices allied with it as opposed to the current way of handling it and in addition would these routinely handle on request from the State Highway Patrol or anybody else or any other like County Sheriffs, police organizations of any kind, they could request special investigations through this office?

SENATOR FOWLER: Correct.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Now, what kind of expertise are we going to provide for as far as guidelines for the qualifications of these coroners, the State Coroner and the three district, or three or whatever number it is, district coroners?

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, the bill spells out that the Chief Medical Examiner...it is on page 5 of white copy request 2008. It says the board shall appoint a Chief Medical Examiner who is licensed to practice medicine and surgery, is certified as a specialist in the practice of pathology, possesses a specialized knowledge of the area of forensic pathology through education and training. Basically, that is investigation of deaths and use of pathology for legal purposes. Demonstrates express interest in forensic pathology and has experience in the operation of a medical examiner's office or is a consulting pathologist to law enforcement agencies in this state or any other state, and then it again says the District Medical Examiners shall have at least the first four criteria and maybe experience would be nice but in Nebraska it may not always be possible outstate to find someone who has experience.

SENATOR GOODRICH: And where are we going to get the other... let's say we were lucky enough to get one forensic pathologist, where would we get the other three?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Goodrich, your time is up as soon as Senator....

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, they would be....

SENATOR GOODRICH: Thank you, that pretty well establishes the picture. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.