

March 19, 1980

LB 222

in Nebraska that perhaps for local political reasons or pressures or whatever, that perhaps sometime some deaths have not been investigated as thoroughly as should be, and I think that it would be maybe a step forward to have the expertise available to county attorneys but I think we need to take it one step further and let that expertise be used as the professional sees fit, the medical professional. The bill provides for a close working relationship with county attorneys and again I would just say that the county attorneys have agreed with this bill.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Senator Fowler. They might have agreed with it but I would stress to the body that I don't think the county attorneys are the ones that are going to have to be necessarily paying for it though either. It still seems to me that we elect county officials, county attorneys on a local basis and they should be the ones that are charged with the decision as to whether or not these deaths are actually investigated. I would urge the body to examine this section very carefully before advancing LB 222 and quite honestly, Senator Fowler, I am attempting to see if I can't come up with some sort of an amendment to make it more palatable to me anyhow. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle, and then Senator Murphy.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, a question or two of Senator Fowler, if I could, please. I am a little bit concerned about the districts that you mentioned and how large they would be and how fast these people could get to the scene. Could you enlighten me how large these districts might be? I believe you mentioned there might be three of them.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, the Chief Examiner probably would cover a certain portion of...the state probably would be divided into four areas. So it would be on that basis.

SENATOR KAHLE: Do you have any idea which areas we'd use, the congressional areas, the health service agencies areas or patrol areas of some kind or has that been determined or thought about?

SENATOR FOWLER: That would basically I believe be up to the board to decide and I think population would not be the deciding factor, but I think that would be weighed, but also then what you are talking about is the geography ability to respond quickly. There is no requirement that they be of equal population or that they match any existing agency