

construed to include practically every death in the State of Nebraska. I don't think that is really the intention or the original intention of the intent of LB 222, or at least in my opinion it shouldn't be. What my amendment is saying, in effect, is that the County Attorney, the local County Attorney who is elected by the local people and probably familiar with the area and with the situation, makes the determination as to whether or not this particular death should be reported to the district Medical Examiner. Then after they report it, then after consultation with the Medical Examiner, then they will determine whether or not the Medical Examiner should, in fact, perform the autopsy. I think this could cut down on the growth of the Medical Examiner's office considerably. It seems to me that we are creating something here that could far exceed what we are attempting to create. It bothers me when we create a bureaucracy or create any agency and then let it continue to grow as it sees fit and I think that is what we are going to start here. We have these local elected officials. Let's use them. Let's let them use their judgment. I think it is necessary. I would urge the body's support of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any further discussion on the Vickers amendment to the Kahle amendment? Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I stand to oppose my good friend's amendment. A year from now I might be supporting it. I think what we are trying to do by even introducing LB 222 is have a new and more workable method of determination and we all have said that a county attorney is an expert in the law but is not an expert very often when it comes to a medical decision. An unattended death mandates in our state that an investigation be made and whether that be done with a new method or not in my estimation should not be left to the discretion of the county attorney. That, in effect, is what we have now and we are trying to make a change in what we have now. So I regretfully stand to oppose the amendment which Senator Vickers has offered.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Are you ready for the motion on the.... Senator Fowler?

SENATOR FOWLER: I would oppose Senator Vickers' amendment. As Senator Marsh has indicated, essentially it puts us back to where we are now. It is interesting to me in the Legislature how attitudes towards attorneys shifts back and forth. Sometimes we treat them with no respect. We have