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LB 222

of New Mexico has a population of 1.2 million. Their cost is \$800,000. The State of Utah has 1.3 million, which is close to Nebraska. Its budget is \$477,000. Differences as to budget can relate to the types of deaths that are investigated. Some states have a more extensive list than we have provided. Ours is comparatively limited to other states. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten, do you wish to speak? Senator Stoney?

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I discussed this particular issue when we reviewed and looked at this bill initially, and I would like to bring it to your attention again. I think the points that Senator Murphy makes are very well taken, and that we should be very attentive to the cost of what this proposal will be. Now, I, in my opening comments earlier indicated and shared with you and would like to do that again by reiterating an estimate of the cost in the State of Oklahoma and I know that Senator Fowler has said that since they have a larger population in that state that our cost would be proportionately less, but let me say that the gentleman that attended the hearing, and I am a member of the Judiciary Committee, a Mr. H. A. Chapman, who is the Chief Medical Examiner in the State of Oklahoma, indicated that for the medical examiner function the annual cost is in that state approximately a \$163,000, medical examiner's cases and perhaps we will have less cases here in the State of Nebraska and we can reduce these proportionately, but in the State of Oklahoma it is in excess of \$317,000. Toxicology laboratory function was a \$173,000 in the state, for a grand total of \$650,000 there in the State of Oklahoma. Now, it is my understanding that we are attempting to broaden this particular proposal by having regional chief medical examiners and if we can use as a gauge just the \$650,000 figure and take as an estimate 50 percent of that figure, or 325,000, we might be looking at approximately a million and a half dollars to implement and have a program such as this in the State of Nebraska. Now, maybe it will be but a mere four or five hundred thousand dollars this year, but I would challenge you to consider what the subsequent cost of such a program will be in the State of Nebraska, and in my estimation it will be in a very short period of time, members of the Legislature, in the millions of dollars. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel.