

Association on an amendment that would deal with the objection of some rural sheriffs that this bill would create administrative problems within their counties, that it would not be a possibility really for them to effectively and judiciously administer this act and, therefore, responding to that argument developed an amendment that would make this bill apply only to those counties that have a County Department of Corrections, which currently is only Douglas and Lancaster County. Now the Douglas and Lancaster County Correctional administrators, Joe Vitek in Douglas County, and Pat Rackers in Lancaster County, do support this bill and do feel that it is possible for them with their administrative structure which is obviously different than in other counties, with their administrative structure to fairly and honestly and effectively administer this act. Other counties, other classes of counties may not be able to do so because they do not have the same correctional administrative structure. So what this amendment does, and it is an amendment that has been agreed to and I worked with the County Sheriffs Association would make this bill applicable only to those counties that are established with a Department of Corrections and that, therefore, those counties that have the administrative structure and the resources to administer this act would do so and we would exempt those who because of the structure of their correctional system would not be able to properly administer the program. So as I indicated when I advanced the bill from General File, I would bring this amendment, present it to you now. It is the compromise that I have worked out with the Sheriffs Association and I would urge that you adopt it.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I support the amendment and certainly would think that it would relieve any pressure from smaller counties that felt they couldn't cooperate with this so I support the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: All those in favor of the Fowler amendment will vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? It does require 25 votes. Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The amendment is adopted. Any further amendments?