

the members or trustees of the board that operate those hospitals was set at a maximum of \$100 at the discretion of the County Board of Supervisors or Commissioners and has not been changed since 44 years ago. This bill would allow those county boards in counties of population of 3,600 inhabitants or more to establish for county hospital trustees a salary of not less than \$100 per year, not to exceed \$1,200 per year nor to exceed \$100 per meeting and would allow the expenses to be paid for mileage as is already in statute. Many of the rural county hospitals have been going through financial difficulties over the past years and the boards have been required to meet many times, to travel to many seminars and informational meetings at their own expense, at the detriment of their jobs and salaries where they were employed or had their own businesses. This is a purely permissive bill and applies only to those counties who have a county hospital organized and operates it as a county hospital and would allow the county to establish a salary that is commensurate with the duties that these people are having to perform, for each member of that board, and I would ask you to advance this bill.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Elmer. There are no...oh, Senator Smith does have her light on. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a couple of questions of Senator Elmer, if I might.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Elmer, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR ELMER: Certainly.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Elmer, I have a kind of a problem with...you're saying that where there is...we're increasing from \$100 a year to \$1,200 a year and that's \$100 a trip for each board member?

SENATOR ELMER: Negative. This would...

SENATOR SMITH: That's what I understood you to say, and I would like to have that clarified.

SENATOR ELMER: This legislation would allow the County Board of Commissioners or Supervisors to set the salary of the members of a county board of, hospital board of trustees members at somewhere between \$1,000 and \$1,200 per year for all the duties