

that I offer to the bill, as the Clerk has punched into the board, is on page 2176 and it is a provision that deals with home rule charter for Douglas County. The bill that we have in front of us deals with the districting or how the districts would be laid out for Douglas County, and I have been supportive of the bill and will continue to be supportive of the bill, but it was stated in committee when the home rule was discussed as well as on General File in this bill that the provisions in 588 allow for the expansion of the number of members who will be on the county board to seven. The district requirements that it provides for basically mean, in my opinion, that there will be a change in that the board will be moving from one of an administrative capacity to one basically of a legislative capacity. Along with that, hand in hand, I think, should go the provisions that provide for home rule. In essence, that they, at the county level, have the ability to, in many cases, set their own standards, provide for their own destiny and that they can have some decision-making powers they currently don't have, that oftentimes they have to come to the Legislature for. Now, don't want to give them total free rein by any stretch of the imagination, but do believe that this is a provision that once LB 588 is passed should be put to the voters so that they have the ability to decide, and I would urge the body to bear that in mind when 588 becomes law that the provisions that a home rule charter would provide are the second step that need to be considered when this change in the structure of Douglas County, and how it is made up, is in place. With that, rather than chartering new ground on the issue of putting a constitutional amendment into a bill, although I would like to probably make that case another time, I will ask that the amendment be withdrawn, Mr. Speaker, so that we can continue on with the rest of the amendments before the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is from Senator Labeledz. It's found on page 2223 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Many of you will recall that on General File I introduced this identical amendment as an amendment to the committee amendment, and at first it was adopted. Later the committee chairman asked that we defeat the committee amendments, which was defeated, and