

regarding Douglas County commissioners might also be appropriate here. My portion of the amendment deals with the election of county board members, specifically, almost exclusively, it is exclusively applicable to Sarpy County. Let me explain the problems with Sarpy County at this particular time in our history. Currently, there in our statutes, not all of the problems are about Sarpy County, no, just one of the very few problems dealing with Sarpy County, Senator Landis, there are currently three systems of electing county board members. There is a unique statute that applies to essentially Douglas County, all counties, I think 250,000 or above. There is another statute that applies to counties 100,000 to the 250,000 level, which is just Lancaster County. And then all the other 92 counties are in the same statute. Sarpy County, currently following the current statute, elects...nominates its county board members by district and elects them by district, as do I think most of the counties in the state. Sarpy County is a growing county. After this next census, it is anticipated that it will be above the 100,000 category. There will be more than 100,000 people living in Sarpy County. When that happens, they will be placed inadvertently, through no legislative action whatsoever they will be in the Lancaster County category where they will have to, I believe it's nominate by districts but elect at large. It is not the desire of the Sarpy County people to do that. Sarpy County people want to maintain the status quo. Current county board consisting of I believe two Republicans and three Democrats voted unanimously that they want to see the current system maintained. What this amendment will do, my portion of this amendment will do will be it will...it will, in essence, amend the Lancaster County statute, the floor of that which is currently 100,000 and raise that up to 175,000 because Lancaster County's population is considerably above that. It will have absolutely no impact on Lancaster County but will give Sarpy County considerably additional room to grow so that they can simply maintain the status quo of the way in which their current county commissioners are elected. I would, as I say, it has the support of the board. We did this last year. The Legislature adopted this amendment to Senator Chambers' bill and we adopted something else that Senator Korshoj did to Senator Chambers' bill. The problem was that when that bill got over to the Governor's office, because of the controversy over the Douglas County amendment, or bill, the whole bill was vetoed and we lost it. We're asking you to do it again. I would indicate that it is not my desire at all to open up those other issues, particularly the Douglas County issue. This is a