

point I'm trying to make is twofold. First off, the voters out there, I think, are being hit with so many different decisions on ballots, many in which they just simply don't care. I think it's time to start recognizing that some positions deserve elections and are worthy of the attention of the general public and others simply are additional responsibilities that the voters simply don't care about and would rather have somebody else take the responsibility for. In fact, in a lot of county government, you've got to wonder how much of that truly serves a function that would require an election process and going to the voters to make decisions on, other clerk positions, for instance, of the counties and what have you. But I don't want to get into that issue at this time. I'm merely pointing out, in my view, that...I guess I would ask somebody who has got the bill, what does a clerk of the district court do and why should it even be an elected position at all, whether it be for those under 7,000 or greater? I don't know if Senator Conway wants to answer that question or Senator Bernard-Stevens, but I would ask what the point is of a clerk of the district court and what their functions are.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: I am sorry, I was away from the microphone and conducting some other business and I didn't hear the complete question. So if Senator Wesely would rephrase it.

SENATOR WESELY: I am opposing your committee amendment because my point is that clerks of the district court, their functions seem to me purely ministerial and are not something that are worthy of an election contest. Can you describe what a clerk of the district court does?

SENATOR CONWAY: A clerk of the district court, primarily, does the ministerial, administrative activities associated with the district judge. They work under their direction dealing with proper filings and all those activities. I guess if your question is, does the committee stand behind whether or not a clerk should be elected or not, was raised several years ago and there was quite a public outcry suggesting that that was an elected position and they did not want to address that. This bill doesn't really address that question. It's simply the threshold level when a county must have one that's elected versus one where they optionally elect or appoint, given the size. What they typically do or, in many cases, will identify