

position. If they agree that's what they want to do, then they would have the option. Otherwise, it would be handled, I believe, by the county...simply by the county clerk. Some of the things that the clerk of the district court...they do a tremendous amount of things but the Legislature, in the last few years, have asked them to do a lot more than what they have normally done, particularly under stress warrants and when you get in the smaller counties, these areas take a lot of time. So, in essence, what I would ask...what I brought to the Legislature is something that the clerk of the district courts have asked for and that is that we modify the law. And I would like to point out, in closing, at this particular point, that the census that came...when the census came in for the...for 1990, it did mean that a couple of the counties that did want to have elected a clerk of the district courts would not be able to because in the western part of the state the populations declined and they fell under the 6,000 mark which the current law now says. The current law now says that if you're 6,000 or less, you do not have the option. What they wanted me to do is to reduce it to 5,000 so then the law would have then stated that, if you had 7,000, you must have an election but if you had between 5,000 to 7,000, you could opt to have an election if you so desired. The Government Committee, I think, did a very wise thing, they usually do wise things, but this one is another example of a wise thing. They said, wait a minute, 10 years from now then when the population is...if it continues to decrease, then we'll be back with the same type of request because they may still want to have their county clerk, excuse me, their clerk of the district court. So they went ahead and said, let's go ahead and give all counties so that we don't have this reoccurring thing every 10 years and simply say, hey listen, if you've got 7,000, you must, but if you don't have 7,000 and you want the extra expense and you believe the position is something that your county needs, you have the option to vote for that particular position. Senator Wesely brings out, I think, a very interesting point about whether we should even have elections for a clerk of the district court and that is a good discussion that we should have some day when some senator introduces a bill as to whether or not we should actually do so. But that is not what this bill is about at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I will now recognize Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Coordsen. Senator Wesely.