

February 5, 1991 LB 32

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill. Senator Wesely's amendment is on page 495 of the Journal.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, this amendment is one I discussed on General File. It deals with the elimination of the election of Clerk of the District Court. As you recall, I raised concern about this legislation. It does open up, in my estimation, a little broader the ability of counties to choose to have their Clerk of the District Court elected rather than appointed. In my viewpoint, in county government, we have probably too many elected offices that are probably best described as ministerial and really not a function that calls for partisan electoral politics. I would rank in that, as well as the Clerk of the District Court, the Register of Deeds, and perhaps some other offices as well, some of the engineer positions, etcetera, etcetera. So in my view, the better course of action, though, rather than pursue at this time a change in the election process for Clerk of the District Court would be to ask Senator Conway and his overworked Government Committee to look at the issue of county government elections and see if we can't examine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of the various election procedures we take now in statute. It seems like, again, I raise the issue about this legislation. It does allow, it seems to me, a broader ability to elect Clerk of the District Courts and I just simply don't see where that office should be one that is elected. But, nevertheless, rather than fight that battle today without having a bill or a public hearing on that legislation, I am going to ask that this amendment be withdrawn and I will pursue this issue further with an interim study in cooperation with other members of the Legislature and see if we can't examine this issue further for next session. So with that, I withdraw the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the bill. (See AM0149 on page 548 of the Legislative Journal.)