

CLERK: Madam President, 178 was a bill introduced by Senator Hartnett. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 11, referred to Government Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Recognize Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam President, members. In Senator Hartnett's absence and since this bill did come through the Government Committee I would like to forward it on and ask the body to advance the bill. The bill very simply changes the authority for a county to identify an additional qualified person. Currently the members of the county commission, the county clerk, the county comptroller, the county manager, various persons are listed and delineated as being persons who can establish and be the budget making authority. What many of the small counties want the authority to do is to designate and/or hire a CPA or other people who are skilled at this process and to have them on this list of people that are qualified to be recognized as budget making authority persons. In the committee there was no opposition to the proposal to include this additional other type of person onto that list. The committee advanced it out 5-0 and in Senator Hartnett's behalf I would offer this to the body and ask them to advance it over to Select.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. I'll now recognize Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Maybe Senator Conway could answer a couple questions that occurred to me. Perhaps it was addressed at the hearing. In your comments you touched on one question that was in my mind. When I looked at the fiscal notes it indicates Sarpy County apparently has some additional staff which I assume, it reads at least, to be county, perhaps county employees that were not otherwise designated but your comments also indicate that this is to go outside and I assume contract with some private entity or private individual to do the same thing. I guess my question is, if that's what another qualified person means I assume that somewhere in the statutes that there would be the requirement of bids, of advertising the kind of conditions that would apply generally if a consultant might be used and if that is true it would be helpful if I knew what they were.