

LB 466.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 466 was a bill introduced by Senators Wesely, Schimek and Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18, referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, this bill specifically deals with the election of the Lancaster County Board. It doesn't apply to any other county board in the state and is similar to legislation considered last year and advanced by the committee but not heard on the floor, I don't believe. What the bill would do is take Lancaster County Board, which is currently nominated by district and elected at large, the five members of the county board, would be elected and...nominated and elected both by district. There's a number of reasons for the change. We have in Lincoln, for instance, gone to a district election of the school board plan. We have one remaining at large member of the school board that will soon become a part of the district election system that we have in place for the other members of the school board, once we redistrict this year. So, essentially, the Lincoln School Board has become an election by district here in Lincoln. The city council has also moved back, in 1978, to four out of the seven members being elected by district. I was involved in the petition drive effort in '78. I was involved with the issue as we considered it in this Legislature on the school board. Both issues went to the ballot in '78 for the city council, and '82 for the school board. In 1978, 66 percent of the Lincoln voters voted for district election of the city council, and in 1982, 65 percent of the Lincoln voters voted for the school board to be elected by district. What I am saying is my sense of the City of Lincoln is that by somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 to 1 Lincolnites prefer district election to the at large election system. We have in the county board system, in Lancaster County, a hybrid of that. What it attempts to do is to have the best or worst of both worlds, by nominating by district, and then electing at large. You have the geographic areas of the county represented by five different representatives, but those people have to then be elected at large. The reason that I and my co-sponsors of this bill object to that system is that it really isn't true district election representation. It is not truly the sort of system that we