

postpone LB 466. Senator Wesely, you'd have the option to lay it over, Senator.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely says take it up. Senator Warner, on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the opposition to this bill, from my parts...actually relative, simple...If there are great dissatisfaction within Lancaster County on the current method of electing, I'm not aware of them. At least I have not had people make complaints to me. I understand the arguments of district versus at large elections, most certainly. But I do believe the system we have here has worked well for Lancaster County. It has ensured distribution to different portions of the county, and yet has retained that overall responsibility. My principle opposition, however, lies in the fact that under, at least as I understand the existing statutes, if in fact there was a great demand, there is at least two processes which are available without the Legislature imposing either of the options, and that is the county board could put the issue on the ballot, if they chose, or by petition the citizens could put the issue on. It seems to me that there is no need for the Legislature to step in and impose a system on the citizens themselves or the local elected officials themselves has the opportunity to place that question on the ballot, if they so choose to do so. Finally, I would say that I certainly am aware of many instances over the years in which decisions were made or rather issues were before the county board in which the ability to appeal to all five members, because they were, by virtue of a large election at the general election you were a constituent, no matter where you lived in the county, has been an advantage, it's one that I would hate to see lost to the citizens of the county. Very frequently, or at least not perhaps frequently, but certainly on occasion the position of a particular commissioner on issue from a particular district, your own district, may not be consistent with what some people at least felt, and you had that opportunity to know you could go to the others and be listened to. I hate to see that opportunity lost. For those reasons the system works as it is, the opportunity is there for a change, if the citizens wish to do so under the statute, and I see no reason or logic or justification for the Legislature to impose a different system, when the citizens, themselves, could do so, if they wished to make the change.