

February 27, 1996 LR 46

spare time. But the object of the report was to inform citizens about the nature and operations of counties in Nebraska to enable them to draw their own conclusions concerning any needed changes. Because most Nebraska counties are concerned about decreasing populations, increasing competition for tax dollars, and increasing complexity of the political and technological environment in which local governments operate it is timely to review county government stature. While counties have adopted a modern management practice, such as centralized purchasing, automatic data processing, and modern budgeting and accounting systems, structural changes in Nebraska county government have been few since World War I. The process or schedule of adopting a county administrative form of government would be this year in a legislative session that we would introduce and pass LR 46CA that in then November it would be put on the general election ballot for voters to decide if they want counties to have the option to appoint officials under the county administrative form of government. Next session, in 1977 (sic), we would have to pass statutory legislation implementing the county administrative form of government. And then, November of 1998, the county administrative form of government can be a referendum on the general ballot. I would like to mention that there have been several states, 33, I believe, states that have, and 300 counties, that have passed this particular form of government. And they, there was one county that rescinded it and then went back to it again. It has been tried in other areas. Again, we are...there are 33 states that do allow a county administrative form of government. And would ask that you have any questions and I might share a discussion with you and some answers, but that you would advance LR 46CA.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hillman. For discussion of the bill (sic), Senator Wehrbein followed by Senators Bernard-Stevens, Kristensen, Hillman, Pirsch, and Lynch. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, Senator Hillman, would you outline how you would see a typical county reacting to this ability to do what you're allowing here, as you see a possible example or two.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hillman, will you yield?

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes. I think what we'd be looking at in