

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 19, 1999 LB 272

superintendents today. And I just want to review the provisions that were passed in 1997 in LB 806, which stated, the elected office of county superintendent of schools shall be eliminated by June 30th, 2000. The State Department of Education shall make recommendations on which of the duties assigned to county superintendents should be eliminated, which duties should be retained, and to whom the retained duties should be assigned. And the department should report its recommendations to the Clerk of the Legislature, not later than December 1, 1997. In July of 1997, a committee was appointed by the Commissioner of Education to research and develop recommendations regarding the duties of the county superintendent and the transfer of these duties. This committee met three times for a full day each time. On the committee were a number, six or seven, of county superintendents that were serving at the time. The committee considered various recommendations and in developing their report and, based upon the recommendations of the State Department of Education, LB 70...272 resulted. In recognizing the diverse needs and the demographics of Nebraska, I believe LB 272 continues to serve the needs of Nebraska students, schools and communities. The bill addresses cooperation and greater efficiencies on the county level. The bill also provides for the elimination of county reorganization committees and transfers their duties to the state reorganization committee. In reorganization, local control is still present with the involvement of local school boards and patrons. With the passage of LB 272, it could be possible to have a decrease in county expenditures of approximately \$1.6 million beginning in 2000 and 2001, based upon 1996 and '97 estimated expenditures. I want to emphasize again that this bill eliminates references to county superintendent in the statutes, but still lets counties have the option to contract for a county school administrator if they so desire. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: There are committee amendments. Senator Bohlke, you are recognized to speak on the committee amendments. (Standing Committee amendment AM0228 is found on page 566 of the Legislative Journal.)