

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 22, 2000 LB 717

approximately one-third of the counties in the state, and that was too unwieldy. It wasn't really effective or as practical as it could be. But there is the component of the LEPC structure that allows for one, two, three, four counties. There is encouragement to work together on these plans and to do a coordinated effort.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator, I understand that, and that's really not my question. My question is more to the area as you as the sponsor of this legislation and certainly a person who has worked long term, are you, in fact, going to encourage some of these smaller counties to, in fact, develop a plan among several counties where they can...you can reduce the cost no matter who pays for it, you can reduce the cost of administration down to a level that's probably affordable by the entire system? That's what I'm talking about.

SENATOR PREISTER: You are right on point, Senator Vrtiska, because we anticipate, and I say we, I think that's NEMA, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, as well as the SERC, the State Emergency Response Commission, estimate that we probably will never have more than 70 LEPCs in the state of the 93 counties, which I appreciate you pointing out the full number of. They...the 70 would represent some coordination from some of those smaller counties or those counties that really don't have the greater concern. And so we're not looking at having every county have one. We are looking at efficiencies and cost effectiveness, and so at this point, we're looking at probably 23 counties that won't have their own individual LEPCs and, in fact, there may be several counties together.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, back to the point, I think that the only thing I'm interested in is, obviously, in some of the small counties, even though it makes no difference where the money comes, it's the amount of efficiency that is built into it, and I have to acknowledge, as I'm sure you do, that there is some counties that are small and that will not have probably the amount of traffic or spills that you might have, particularly on the major thoroughfares and in areas where there is a lot of chemicals that are...more chemicals are used. So I guess my point is...