

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

April 5, 2000

LB 972

how rural legislation is doing very well, and I'm very glad for that. But, nevertheless, your amendment as it...as it picks up this formula of one-half of 1 percent makes me nervous in a way that apparently doesn't bother anybody else, and that is that it requires somebody to know exactly how many employees in locating the site or in being certain that they go to the least populous of the rural counties in order that they'll have room to...room to move up or down in employees and people servicing the calls within the formula. So I think it's...it's ingenious. It also comes from other legislation that's been adopted this time, this session. I understand all of that. I mean we have so many themes and threads going here, it's tough to keep them straight. But you also would have to have a lot of clarity as to exactly where you were placing it, and if you need more...if you place it small enough in the least populous county, you'll have lots of room to grow and stay within the formula. If you place it at a medium level and are able to more efficiently serve the people, and could get rid of some employees, you're putting a floor beneath which there could be any terminations. Heaven forbid that state government or one of its related bureaucracies would ever be downsizing. But I think it's, while it's a workable formula and it's not precisely targeted, I think it's a straitjacket at the same time, and I have a concern with that since we are in a wholly new endeavor in which, as you say, Senator Bourne, people are good people doing a good job, to the best of their ability, implementing a very difficult and kind of behemoth process. But I'm not certain, given some of the record to date, that I want to rely, when they go out there and target that county that's going to be one-half of 1 percent, so that they can have the right number of employees, I'm not certain I want to rely...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...on that kind of forecasting with no more track record than we have, and that...that bothers me. With that, I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Kristensen, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Bourne,