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bills that were introduced to set the number of a board. They'd want three or they'd want five or they'd want seven or they'd want six. And year after year, they would come in and they would testify and say, well, cities of the first class have this number, and cities of the second class have this number; we'd like to have the same freedom to have this number. And finally, as a committee we looked at it and said, why are we changing this incrementally? Why don't we give these cities and these boards the ability to set a number, as long as it's an uneven number so that they don't have tie votes when they meet, that they can then decide exactly how many people they want to have on these boards, as long as we set a minimum and we set the criteria of being an odd number? I think it's a good policy decision on our behalf, and actually on their behalf as well. I think it will also eliminate a lot of the hearings and bill introductions that we have on these very issues. I would like to see this kind of policy across the board on many of our urban issues for the municipalities and other boards in this state. I do support the bill, and I would ask that you consider doing so as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Redfield. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, I don't have particularly strong feelings about this bill, but I think there's another side to the flexibility argument. I remember once, many, many years ago, when a board, and I don't remember what it was, had the flexibility to change the number of members of a board. And when they discovered they had a board whose decisions they didn't like or whose philosophy they didn't like, they changed the number of members so as to get the right philosophy. And I think that's the other side of flexibility. In other words, it sounds good to say, city council, or natural resources board, or whoever, you create as many members as you want. But I think, historically, the reason that the Legislature has had a very limited flexibility, or perhaps in most cases no flexibility whatsoever, even though it may vary as between classes of cities and different types of political subdivisions, there is some logic and historic reason why we've set the number at a particular number, and that is so that that