

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

January 26, 2006 LB 529

react to situations promptly, but you'll also be able to institute, faster and in a way that's comprehensive, changes in the court rules, changes in the court systems, technologies that are badly needed both with regard to budgeting, with regard to auditing, and with regard to the basic filing of documents. Do you know that in the federal courts of the state of Nebraska, with few exceptions, the only way you can file a document with the court is an e-filing? You do things by e-mail. Work is drastically reduced in the federal courts by just having the document go directly from the lawyer's office automatically onto the computers of the federal court. Anybody that wants that information can get it off the computer. They're doing that with most of their filings. That can cut down significantly on the workloads both in the clerks of the district court offices and in other court offices. We need to do that. That is something, like the JUSTICE system itself, which is difficult to do in 93 different counties unless you have effective management control of all of those offices. I want to indicate that there is another significant part of the bill, and that is that the bill, although it in and of itself does no merging of offices, but, like any good business model, it creates a pathway for merger. Just as in the business world from time to time you may need to restructure things for efficiency's sake, so too this bill would allow mergers between the clerks of the district court offices and the clerks of the county court. They do identical...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...kinds of work. Their systems in many cases could be integrated so that the work could be done more electronically and all together in one system, in one office. It is possible in this bill, under a local plan--and I want to say that twice--under a local plan--maybe I should say it three times--under a local plan, it's possible to merge those two positions into one clerk of the courts, so that you have one office for both the county courts and the district courts. The local plan that I'm talking about is developed by the local judges, district, county, and juvenile, and by representatives from both of the different clerks offices. And the bill provides that they shall obtain input from both local lawyers