

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

January 26, 2006 LB 529

in terms of personnel, and perhaps employee benefits or otherwise, was in favor of it. And I would think that the county board, being the ultimate budget authority, would appreciate freeing up the dollars that this bill would do for a county's general fund. And...but that's not the case in this particular county, and that's why I'm anxious to hear even more information. And there might be an opportunity for us to vote on this bill sometime soon. Not quite certain. But nonetheless, I think it is important for us to look at what this does in terms of state expenditures, that after, I think it's 2011, we're looking at a net cost to the state of almost \$6 million, because the \$5 fee, even increasing the \$5 fee...or, even increasing the fee \$5 more, will not cover the added expense to the state. What's interesting is to look at that growth of the price tag from now through 2011. There's huge growth there, based on employee benefits and other costs that are obviously part of the mix. So we, I think, need to be careful. I have some General Fund concerns ultimately. But in the short term, there is this increase in the fees, and I think that we should not adopt this. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Flood.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members. With regard to LB 529, this is a bill of role reversals in several ways. Here we have an opportunity from Senator Beutler that would essentially reduce the financial burden on counties, and we have counties, in a weird role reversal moment, saying, we want to pay for this. And while it's interesting to look at the big picture, I want to say a few things. I don't have a problem, and I don't imagine the district court clerks would have a problem if they were appointed by a district judge. In the interest of justice, I think that that works. I'm not opposed to electing district court clerks, but I do think, at the end of the day, the Supreme Court needs a way to put its thumb on these offices so that we have a uniform, unified system, where everybody follows the same rules. A district court clerk in south-central Nebraska or northeast Nebraska shouldn't wake up some day and say, you know what, I'm going to do my filing system differently, I'm going to...I'm not going to comply with this effort to have e-filing in my court. Attorneys