

February 26, 1975

do not want this bill to cost the state one dime. We will amend the bill to whatever is to cover the cost. The cost, in other words, will be paid by the citizens of those three counties. There are those that think, frankly, that we're only doing this for the retail merchants in the form of being able to identify people cashing checks. This is not the prime purpose of this bill, or the concept of placing a photo on the drivers license. The concept is to establish identification for police departments. You'll notice in the committee report that a Ted Kessner, attorney for the Police Officers Association, was the one that testified in favor of the bill. The police departments want to be able to identify, better than they can now, whether or not the person that they are talking to is the person that the drivers license in question was issued to. Granted, the merchants will get a side benefit. The purpose of this bill is to satisfy the need for the police departments, at the request of the police departments. It's for that reason that I ask you please to raise this bill on the floor, place it on General File, and we'll work out the amendments to the bill. I will contact each and every one of you to find out if you want to include the whole state in it. If you do, so be it. I'll be happy to do that. I will also amend the bill in such a way that there will be no cost to the state whatsoever. With that, I think I'll just close. Thank you.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Syas, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SYAS: Well all I want to ask about this bill, in its present form, as I understand it Senator Goodrich, you say Sarpe, Douglas and Lancaster counties. The weakness in this thing, as I see it, is Sarpe county. What class is Sarpe county?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Six.

SENATOR SYAS: And how many other counties are there that are class 6?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Class . . . there are none. Sarpe county is the only one. So it would be Sarpe county - class 6 . . . it would be Sarpe and Lancaster; class 7 would be Douglas.

SENATOR SYAS: What's Dodge?

SENATOR GOODRICH: 35 or 6,000, something like that. Anythink below 60,000 would not be included. If they want themselves included, we can do that very easily.

SENATOR SYAS: No, I'm just trying to find this out for some reason. I don't know, but for some reason I don't think you can do this. It looks to me like it's local law. Have you got an Attorney General's opinion on this?

SENATOR GOODRICH: It's in the process of being written right now, because Senator Cavanaugh raised the same question. My understanding of this is that as long as you deal . . . if you're going to deal with class 6, for example, you must also deal with class 7. Anything this size or above. You'll recall a couple years ago the city