

down here, I have been involved in an attempt to pass a bill called the Deputy Sheriffs Retirement bill. If LB 432 passes in its current form, that will probably pretty much end the need for ever coming back with a statewide deputy sheriffs retirement program. I mention that because in some private discussions Senator Hartnett and I have had, we have heard a number of Senators be concerned that, well, if we do this for Sarpy County this year, then the rest of the state will be in next year. Not true, it will not happen. LB 432 will put all of those other deputies into the current county retirement program. Our concern in Sarpy County is that we have a need and a desire...we have a problem in Sarpy County where our commissioned officers, our deputy sheriffs, our Sheriffs Department is in competition with other metropolitan area law enforcement agencies for recruiting personnel. One of the advantages that most other subdivisions have is a better retirement system. This is something that they look for very, very closely. Another thing I want to emphasize is that there really shouldn't be, in my opinion, a need for us to come to the Legislature with this matter. I say that because it is something that our county board is happy to provide. They endorse this amendment. Our county board considered this and they would like to see this amendment adopted. They would like to give additional retirement benefits to the deputy sheriffs within Sarpy County. The reason we cannot do that is because state law is very explicit in that county boards can only have authority specifically granted to them by state statute. Last summer I was asked, why don't we just have our county board give some additional retirement benefits, some additional sorts of benefits to the employees in Sarpy County? They asked me to get an Attorney General's Opinion. If you look in your Journal all the way back on page 46 and 47, you will see that Attorney General's Opinion that says we must have some enabling legislation. This amendment gives us that enabling legislation. It applies only to Sarpy County. The Nebraska Association of County Officials is neutral on this amendment. Senator Wesely, as I indicated, and I hope he will indicate this a little later, this is his bill, he has no problem with us using this as a vehicle. Our county board does not oppose it. This is one of those little amendments where we are coming in and asking you, the rest of the Legislature, to do a favor for those of us that represent one particular county. Emphasize that it does say any county 85,000 or above. Technically that might include Douglas and Lancaster County you might think, but in