

this case it does not because they are not in the county employee retirement program. They have, each one of those counties has separate retirement programs of their own so Sarpy County is the only county that is affected. I would appreciate your support.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely is next, but may I introduce some guests of Senator Lundy. Under the south balcony are Roger, Judy, Sally, and Ben Plasecki from Kearney, Nebraska. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I did agree to this amendment from the Sarpy County Senators. The question of the deputy sheriffs, sheriffs retirement, has been one that I have been troubled by. I haven't been helpful to them. I have blocked their bill in the past because I thought a better solution was out there. I think the bill itself and now with the amendment we have found that solution. Part of the problem with sheriffs has been only 31, I think, or so counties have got a retirement plan. The other 57 counties, I think, did not, isn't that right, and then I think there is two counties that are separate, Lancaster and Douglas. So anyway you come up with the 93 counties and you have got the situation that most of the counties do not have any retirement plan and that is where the sheriffs have really been upset. Okay, so this bill takes care of that in its original form. But Sarpy County is a far larger population county than any other county and much more perhaps like Douglas and Lancaster than they are with the other smaller counties and so they have a larger sheriff's department and they have been the real pushers behind this sheriffs bill. And we do identify in the retirement principles of our committee that law enforcement personnel can be separated out from other types of public employees. We do that for the Patrol. They are under a different retirement plan than other state employees. Our first class police are under a different plan than other first class employees. You have...I think most any law enforcement you can think of has got a plan separate except for the county sheriffs. They have always been under the county plan. So it is not an unusual thing to take law enforcement and separate that one set of personnel out from other personnel. Now I don't think particularly in this case that is the way to go and that is why I have opposed the sheriff's bill in the past. But in the case of a large county, like Sarpy County, making