

an exception to the rule probably is acceptable. That is what they want and this bill would only affect Sarpy County. Again, Douglas and Lancaster County each have their own plan. Sarpy would have the same plan as all the other counties with one exception, that being for the deputy sheriffs and that exception would raise by 2 percent the employer contribution and by 2 percent the employee contribution. That would be...then in the aggregate about the same contribution level, 12 percent, that is now being paid into first class police pension plans. That is why that is the figure that is used. It would be very similar to what first class police officers are receiving. So there is a reason and logic behind it. It does only affect Sarpy County, and if this is what the county wants, it will take care of their needs, their concerns, and we can put to rest the sheriffs issue. I guess I am willing to accept it.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Senator Lundy, then Senator Abboud, then Senator Lynch.

**SENATOR LUNDY:** Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment and I think my opposition to this stems around the fact that today it is for a county, one single county. I realize what the sheriffs want to do. I understand it completely, but I am wondering whether or not we aren't starting something here in the way of opening the floodgates and maybe we will see a request next year for a change in this legislation to authorize it in counties of over 40,000 population which would then pick up Hall County. And following that, I wonder then if we won't see another amendment requested to do it for counties over 30,000 population, and then we pick up Fremont and we pick up Kearney and we start picking up others, Scottsbluff and on down the road, and pretty soon you have special legislation for one group of county employees. I am not saying this is necessarily bad. I think it is...it can be bad because it can cause a bridge that needs to be crossed when you are talking about fringe benefits for other county employees, for other counties that might be comparing their sheriffs department with one that has a better plan of retirement for their personnel. That is the danger I see in going for this kind of legislation. I am sure that it can rear its ugly head up and just kick us in the head in another year or two and that is what bothers me. I think that it is there, it could be amended next year to include a county that is a little bit smaller, and then pretty soon it is a little bit