

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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County, is run by the city of Omaha. So while this type of a bill may be brought to you as some kind of a merger situation, at this time, and that might work in some areas where you have several cities within a county all running their own library systems and wanting to merge that for some type of efficiencies of scale, in Douglas County things are different because we already have essentially a countywide library system through the city of Omaha. The area that I represent is in far west Douglas County. The library that we access is the Millard Branch Library, which is in the city of Omaha, but is just a little ways from my home. My own subdivision in the city of Omaha has just been annexed by the city of Omaha. We were in the county up until this year. So as Omaha as a city continues to annex those portions of Douglas County that are left to annex, we become the city of Omaha, the entire, I think at some point in time the entire Douglas County area will be incorporated into the city limits of Omaha. So we have a different situation going on in Douglas County than some of you have in your county areas where you have several cities that have library systems, you can merge them together and you can talk about how to do that best. In the city of Omaha and in Douglas County they are talking. Our city council is talking with our county board about how they will carry out some type of a merger, how services will be accessed through areas of Douglas County that may have to go a little farther to access a public library. But we're not talking great distances here, we're talking one, maybe two miles, just a couple of miles to access a building at this time. What LB 250 does is it causes a number of problems, not only to the ongoing negotiations between the city of Omaha and the Douglas County Board, but also for those residents of Douglas County. My first amendment here is, on page 15 of the bill, to strike lines 16 through 28, and on 16, lines 1 through 9. What this does is give the registered voters of the city an opportunity to file an initiative petition with the county board to require the issue of merger to be on the ballot. It goes through the entire petition process. And if you look on page 16, lines 7 and 8, it says that the county board shall submit the question of whether to merge with the county library. How this would work in Douglas County is if they get enough people in those areas of Douglas County that are not part of the city of Omaha to vote for merging a county library system, on the idea of many of those people, myself included, that we will