

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB544

Chairperson: Senator Laura Ebke

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: February 15, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 544 provides a local option for consolidation of administrative duties when a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court or when an incumbent Clerk of the District Court decides not to seek re-election. Instead of requiring a general election vote of the people to eliminate the office of the Clerk of the District Court, LB 544 would allow the county board to make such decision. If the county board decides to eliminate this elected office, the county board would enter into an agreement with the State Court Administrator to allow the Clerk Magistrate to fulfill the duties of the Clerk of the District Court. The employees of the Clerk of the District Court would become state employees and would not incur a loss of income or benefits as a result. The county board may request that the State Court Administrator review office space to determine if it could be reduced, but the final decision would be made by the county board.

LB 544 would also eliminate ex officio Clerks of the District Court and transfer their duties to Clerk Magistrates by July 1, 2018, pursuant to an agreement between the State Court Administrator and the county board. County clerks are currently performing the duties of the ex officio Clerks of the District Court.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Dan Watermeier