

SENATOR HABERMAN: If a man runs for...if a man is qualified, and...to be a county surveyor, if he passes the test for the state of Nebraska that...takes the exam. It lasts two days. If they have eight years' experience and they're licensed by the state of Nebraska, and he runs for the office and is elected, he is the county surveyor.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Haberman, one last question. Would you go for something...an amendment in your bill that would allow the county surveyor to be hired without an election by the county board?

SENATOR HABERMAN: I...no, sir, I think that the elected process is a good process, and it should stay in the bill.

SENATOR NICHOL: Why don't we hire...why don't we elect the county highway superintendent then? That is much more important than the surveyor, and we don't elect him. They appoint him.

SENATOR HABERMAN: The bill says, provided that in counties where the county surveyor is an ex officio county engineer, he can also be the full time surveyor.

SENATOR NICHOL: I understand that, but what I'm getting at is the other point, why not have the county board hire him and appoint him rather than have him elected at all in any county.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well let's do that will all the elected county officials then.

SENATOR NICHOL: Well it might be alright. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my understanding of this bill now as it is amended, we do not do anything with the qualifications or criteria of the individual, whether he be elected or whether he be appointed. He still has to be a qualified person to fit that position, and I think that there might be some misconception here. We're not changing anything, as I see it, except to allow counties that do not have the opportunity to elect an individual or an individual that seeks that, but can by contract appoint whether he be in the county or whether he be out. Is that not true, Senator Haberman?

SENATOR HABERMAN: That is the whole thing in a nut shell, Senator Carsten. Thank you for your explanation.