

February 11, 1982

LB 729

to one year. This is an attempt to further professionalize law enforcement in Nebraska and also to save money for the various counties. Under existing law, after a deputy sheriff has been on duty for six months, the sheriff must determine whether or not to take him off the probationary period. All deputies must attend the Grand Island Law Enforcement Training Center and this training takes seven weeks. If it would be necessary for the deputy to repeat part of this training, a great deal of the six months' probationary period would be used. The existing probationary period does not allow sufficient time for the sheriff to evaluate the performance of his deputies. Now this is a not a momentous bill or one of great import, but it is unique in the fact that it is offered, introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association and the Nebraska Association of County Officials appeared at the hearing as proponents. There were no opponents to the bill and there is no fiscal impact. I urge the rapid transit of LB 729. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I also support what Senator Chronister has said. Many times the deputies are not sent to the training school right away. They are used around the sheriff's office to learn the process of being a sheriff. Some of them may not want to take the training after they have learned what it is all about. So I think it is a good idea. There just wasn't time in the six month period, probationary period, to determine whether this person was going to make a deputy sheriff or not. So I certainly support LB 729. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chronister, do you wish to close, or do you have any closing?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to reiterate that many times sheriffs find themselves in a time bind, and by granting one year they have more time to evaluate the deputy and his performance, and there is less chance of making a mistake in the evaluation. I urge passage of the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the advancement of 729. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.