

**ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB475**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday March 12, 2009  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Stuthman  
**One Liner:** Eliminate the position of county comptroller

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 7 Senators Avery, Giese, Karpisek, Pahls, Pirsch, Price, Sullivan  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:** 1 Senator Janssen

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**Proponents:**

Senator Arnie Stuthman  
Chris Rodgers  
Deb Schorr  
Paul Tomoser  
Clare Duda  
Paul Koehler  
Timothy Dunning  
Tom Doyle  
John Friend  
Jon Edwards

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Douglas County Board of Commissioners  
Lancaster County  
Douglas County  
Douglas County  
Douglas County  
Douglas County Sheriff  
Douglas County Engineer  
Douglas County Clerk of the District Court  
Nebraska Association of County Officials

**Opponents:**

Carmen Harmon  
  
Laurel Tague  
  
Brandon Clark  
  
Richard File  
James Broderick  
Tom Cavanaugh

**Representing:**

Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller - Internal Audit Division  
Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller - Internal Audit Division  
Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller - Internal Audit Division  
Self  
Self  
Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller

**Neutral:**

Michael O'Hara

**Representing:**

Self

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 475 eliminates the position of county comptroller. In current law, any county having a population over 300,000 inhabitants shall have a county comptroller. The county clerk is designated as the county comptroller.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment strikes the original sections of the bill and replaces them with the following provisions:

In any county in which a metropolitan class city is located, the elected position of county comptroller is created. The county comptroller will act as the chief auditing officer, internal auditor, and have general auditing authority over all officers of the county. No person will seek nomination or appointment for the office of county comptroller, nor serve in that capacity, unless he or she has been issued a certificate of certified public accountant by the Board of Public Accountancy.

The county clerk will serve as the ex officio county comptroller until the county comptroller is elected in 2010. The county comptroller will be elected on the statewide general ballot in 2010 and each four years thereafter. The county comptroller will be elected on a partisan ballot.

The county comptroller need not be a resident of the county when he or she files for election, but a county comptroller will reside in the county when he or she holds office.

The county comptroller will execute a bond in a sum not less than \$1000 to be fixed by the county board.

Sections 23-1402, 23-1403 and 23-1404, dealing with duties of the county comptroller, are outright repealed because they contain duties which are duplicative of the duties of the county clerk.

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Bill Avery, Chairperson