

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB239

Hearing Date: Thursday February 24, 2011
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Janssen
One Liner: Require presentation of government-issued photographic identification to vote in elections

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

Vote Results:
Aye: 5 Senators Janssen, Karpisek, Pahls, Price, Schumacher
Nay: 3 Senators Avery, Brasch, Sullivan
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:
Senator Charlie Janssen

Representing:
Introducer

Opponents:
Jack Gould
Adam Morfeld
Mary Angus
Amy Miller
Jane Kleeb
Beth Bazyn Ferrell

Representing:
Common Cause Nebraska
Nebraskans for Civic Reform
ADAPT NE
ACLU Nebraska
Bold Nebraska
Nebraska Association of County Officials

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 239 provides that no ballot will be handed to any voter in an election until the voter has presented a government-issued photographic identification or the voter votes a provisional ballot.

If a person does not present photo ID, he or she may vote a provisional ballot. The person is then required to present the government-issued photographic identification within 10 days after the election, or the ballot will not be counted. If the person signs a statement that he or she is indigent and unable to obtain photo ID or that the voter has a religious objection to being photographed, the provisional ballot will be counted.

Explanation of amendments:

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

A voter will not be handed a ballot at any election until the voter has presented a government-issued photographic identification or an acknowledgment of registration. A person who does not present identification at the polling place will be allowed to vote provisionally.

Government-issued photographic identification is defined as a motor vehicle operator's license or state identification

card or a document issued by the United States which includes the name and photograph of the individual.

Prior to every statewide primary and general election, the election commissioner or county clerk will mail an acknowledgment of registration to every registered voter who does not have a motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card for the purpose of presenting identification at the voter's polling place.

Voters who vote an early ballot will not be required to show identification. Similarly, in an election held by mail, voters will not be required to show identification.

Currently in law there are identification requirements for persons who register to vote by mail and are voting in Nebraska for the first time. The committee amendment adds government-issued photographic identification to the list of documents currently listed in statute as acceptable forms of identification for these types of voters.

Bill Avery, Chairperson