

SENATOR MOYLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I ask to have this amendment tacked on here at the request of the Blind Association of Nebraska and also of the Election Commissioner of Douglas County. The law, at present, voters who are disabled by reason of paraplegia or blindness may cast his ballot either with the assistance of two election officials or by a relative or by a friend of the voter's selection. The change proposed in this amendment would remove the requirement that the relative or friend of the disabled voter be registered to vote in the state of Nebraska. There were at least two cases at the November 2nd Presidential election at which a blind voter requested that a daughter 17 years of age assist her blind parents in the polling booth. The request were denied since Nebraska law required that the person rendering assistance be registered to vote. The only change here is that any handicapped voter who needs aide can have a member of his own family or a friend which may be under age for voting or not registered in that precinct or not registered to vote in Nebraska, that's the only changes made and it would hardly back by the Election Commissioner of Douglas County. I would ask for the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Are we on the amendment or on the bill now?

PRESIDENT: Yes, on the amendment.

SENATOR DWORAK: I want to talk on the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I think I would object to this amendment because I think it may jeopardize the bill itself. I think the bill in the position it is now can move through without a great deal of argument. I think the fact that we have registered voters on hand at any polling place to assist disabled persons gives adequate help for those who are voting. I would be very very hesitant to allow a person who is not a registered voter be at the beck and call of the elected voter. That may be adequate assistance in many cases but it may also be inadequate assistance and to protect the right of all of the citizens, I feel it is a better protection since this is currently in our law and I would oppose adding this amendment to the bill because of that. I feel that it would jeopardize LB 201. In case you didn't hear the original explanation, one of my bills is now part of 201 so I have a vital interest in this also.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moylan, would you close debate on your amendment?

SENATOR MOYLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm quite certain this would not interfere with the bill. It's very germane to this bill. I think any blind person or paraplegic naturally would feel more confident if some member of their family helping them to mark the ballot than the people at the polls. I agree the people at the polls are probably competent and trustworthy and all that but the blind person, the paraplegic, they do not know the poll workers there especially in a city where they do not work in their own precinct. I can see no detriment to this bill to have