



Ninety – Sixth Legislature – First Session – 1999  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LR 18CA**

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**Chairperson: Senator DiAnna R. Schimek**  
**Committee: Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs**  
**Date of Hearing: 02/18/99**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Resolution 18CA would make three main changes to the Nebraska Constitution. The first part of LR 18CA proposes a constitutional amendment that would require that no constitutional amendment, whether proposed by initiative or by legislative action, shall be effective until it is adopted by the electorate at two successive popular elections. The reason for this is to protect the sanctity of the Constitution, so that it is only amended when the public has full understanding of the proposed changes and has had an opportunity to reflect on the implications of a particular amendment.

The second part of LR 18CA amends Article III, §§ 1, 5 and 7, and Article V, § 25 to identify the powers of initiative and referendum and remove obsolete language referring to the transition from a bicameral to a unicameral legislature. This section of LR 18CA is purely technical in nature.

Finally, LR 18CA proposes to change the time-line for filing an initiative petition with the Secretary of State. The constitution currently requires petitions to be filed four months before the general election. LR 18CA directs that petitions be filed at least eight months before the general election. This ensures a greater period of time for discussion and contemplation of an initiative before it is voted on by the electorate.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Douglas A. Kristensen**