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LB 434, 571, 802, 858

will look at your bill on page 4, you will notice that there are a list of reasons presently in statute. There's about 8 or 9 of them, I believe, that are statutory now. What this bill will do will omit those reasons and simply let somebody request an application for absentee voting. It's well-known that members of the voting public who want to vote absentee often do not quite fit into any of these precise requirements listed in the current statutes, so we think that this will make it easier for people to vote if they, for some reason or another, cannot be at the polls. Similar requirements were included in LB 802, which has passed. However, this bill contains additional technical and cross-reference sections which are necessary. In addition, there were two other bills that were amended into this bill. They were heard by the Government Committee. The first one was the original LB 858 introduced by Senator Crosby, and this part of the amendment provides that the number of ballots required to be certified as a candidate must be equal to at least 5 percent of the total ballots cast in the primary election by the voters of a particular party. In other words, somebody can't become a nominee because they had seven write-in votes. They have to be at least 5 percent of total ballots cast. The second part of the amendment is the original...are the original provisions of LB 434, which were introduced by Senator Janssen, and the bill provides a general provision that write-in votes need not be counted when there has not been an active write-in campaign for a particular person. The exception to this provided by the amendment is that all votes must be counted in elections for board of trustees, village board of trustees, township officers, and members of a school board for Class I and Class II school districts. There are several other amendments that are filed to the bill which we will take up as we go along, but that's the basic essence of the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. To open on the committee amendments, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, I did just explain the committee amendments, which were the two bills, the one introduced by Senator Crosby and the one introduced by Senator Janssen. I'd be happy to answer questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Discussion on