

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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May 11, 1999

LB 457, 571

the committee amendments? Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close. Senator Schimek waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 571. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Committee amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Next amendment to the bill, Mr. President, Senator Robak, AM1537. (AM1537, Legislative Journal page 1748.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Robak, you're recognized on your amendment to LB 571.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am amending AM...I am introducing AM1537, which is printed on page 1748 of the Journal. This amendment would add a new section to the election laws that says: The state shall reimburse each county for the actual cost of placing constitutional amendments on the primary and general election ballots at the direction of the Legislature. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee advanced this issue to General File as LB 457. It was also debated last year as LB 1007. NACO strongly supports this bill. AM1537 allows counties to recoup the expense of providing legislative mandated constitutional amendments to registered voters. Under existing law, all political subdivisions are billed for ballot space. Ballot paper, programming of scanners, printing of ballots and extra hours of work for the added volume of ballot sheets are some of the factors used to compute election expenses. In addition, ballots must be published, precinct lists printed, and polling locations rented. Poll workers' salaries are the most expensive component of local elections. The money collected from the political subdivisions goes into the county general fund. NACO asked each county to report the prorated cost of last year's general election amendments compared to the total election case, excuse me, the total election cost. The formula for determining ballot space cost is set out in Section 32-1203 of the Nebraska statutes. The formula is also used on the LB 457 fiscal note. Prorated expenses can differ from county to