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FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2003      LB 461

Veterans Affairs Committee heard this bill on February 20. There were no dissenting votes. LB 461 is a fairly simple bill. It was brought to me by the Secretary of State's Office. It changes the provisions relating to the election of township officers from a partisan election to a nonpartisan election. These offices are currently partisan offices, despite no nomination...or, nominating process by political parties. In addition, it changes the method of voting for the chair, treasurer, and clerk individually, and replaces that with a vote for three. This way, the person receiving the highest number of votes becomes the chair, the second-highest becomes the treasurer, and the third becomes the clerk. This will eliminate the situation where one person receives the most votes for the chair and treasurer. It is commonly...or, it's common for township board positions to be determined solely by write-in votes, and officers elected by very few votes. In such a situation, it is very common for a person whose name is written into to receive votes for more than one of those offices. This simplifies the process. Very few votes are cast in these elections. And it makes good sense to me. With that, I'd answer any questions anyone has. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. You've heard the opening on the advancement of LB 461. We're now open for discussion on that motion. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the body. I'm very much concerned about this bill. The thing that really concerns me is, when you have officers of township boards already that are in existence. And depending upon the vote that comes up at the next election, a vote of one or two votes could make a difference between the top voter...the top individual receiving votes. One could probably get five votes, the other one could get three, and the other one one. Because there's very few votes cast on these township elections on the ballot. The real concern that I have is, one of the individuals that are, you know, currently serving as the chairman, or currently serving as the treasurer, every four years that could totally get changed around. And I don't think that would be good as far as continuity, as far as the township board is concerned. A question that I have is, what happens when...and I'd like to ask