

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2003 LB 461, 548

CLERK: 25 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 461.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 461 does advance. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 548, by Senator Aguilar. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21 of this year, referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, advanced to General File. At this time I have no amendments to the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Aguilar, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 548.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This bill was brought to me by the Secretary of State's Office, because the genesis of the bill was...arose from a situation in Hall County. The situation involved an election worker that was told they would have to take a day of vacation or personal time in order to work the election. Current state law provides protection for poll workers from coercion, discharge from employment, loss of pay, loss of overtime pay, loss of sick leave, loss of vacation time, the threat of any such action or any form of penalty because of their absence from employment to work as an election worker. The statute specifically identifies judges, clerks, and district inspectors who work at the polls on election days. Because my constituent didn't fit into these categories, the protection guaranteed by law was threatened. The bill expands this protection to explicitly cover general election workers. Elections are the basis of our democracy. You and I know how extremely important they are, and how difficult it can be in today's society to be an active participant. Let's extend this protection to all election workers. I ask for your support of LB 548. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. You've heard the opening on advancement of LB 548 to E & R Initial. Open for discussion on that motion. Seeing no lights on, Senator Aguilar, did you wish to close? He waives the opportunity to close on advancement. The question before the body is, shall