ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2023 COMMITTEE STATEMENT

LB390

Hearing Date:	Thursday February 02, 2023
Committee On:	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer:	Clements
One Liner:	Change provisions relating to ballots for early voting under the Election Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:		
Aye:	5	Senators Aguilar, Brewer, Halloran, Lowe, Sanders
Nay:	3	Senators Conrad, Hunt, Raybould
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Testimony:

Proponents:	Representing:
Senator Rob Clements	Introducer
Robert Evnen	Nebraska Secretary of State
Wayne Bena	Nebraska Secretary of State
Opponents:	Representing:
Arlo Hettle	Nebraska Civic Engagement Table
Heidi Uhing	Civic Nebraska
Sara Freeouf	Self
Rose Godinez	ACLU of Nebraska
Neutral:	Representing:
Amber Parker	Self
Connie Reinke	Self

* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Summary:

This bill would modify the laws relating to early voting.

Section 1 of the bill would provide that early voting ballots to be distributed by mail only be sent by nonforwardable first-class mail.

Section 2 would provide authorization for a voter to appoint an agent to return a voted ballot to election officials on behalf of

the voter. It also prohibits a voter's employer or agent of the employer from serving as agent for the return of the voter's ballot. It would also provide that a person acting as agent for a voter could do so for no more than two voter-principals.

Section 3 repeals the original sections of statutes being revised.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 233 to LB 390

The committee amendment proposed to LB 390 would make two changes. First, it modifies Section 2 of the original bill to require the Secretary of State to promulgate rules and regulations relating to the return of a ballot by an agent. Second, it would add a signature line to the outside of the ballot identification envelope for "agent signature" and would require an ballot return agent to sign the envelope when returning a ballot for another person.

Tom Brewer, Chairperson