

used as a harassment to representative government in terms of the business that they are responsible to carry on. Therefore, I justify 15% according to those sections of law that we presently have on the books. In Section 3 this section provides for the election procedure. As you know boards have the authority by statute through a majority vote of their own members to determine and establish a budget and a limited budget if they so desire, and this provision here would allow this board to continue to carry on that prerogative. We are saying that this provision in this bill makes any budget item or limitation applicable for one year only. Here even within the State of Nebraska by Constitution we say that the people by petition cannot change the budget once this body sets it and if we believe that strong at state level then I think we should provide at the local level for those elected and who represent a community to establish a budget without undue harassment from those who might use a petition as that type of a procedure. What we are saying then is that this kind of limitation at a local level should have a sunset provision on an annual basis so that they can review with the consequences of that vote and determine whether or not that community, whoever it might be, wants to proceed under those kinds of limitations. That is that section. In Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7, here we say that we are going to ask that if you are going to use a petition that there should be ample time for the elected body to make considerations of budgets and cuts that are necessary without undue constraints. Let me give you an example of the limitation placed upon Omaha. That initiative was late in the summer. The City of Omaha had or the Omaha school district had exactly fifteen days to comply with the severe limitation. They were looking at a budget of several millions of dollars. In fifteen days they are expected to be miracle workers in terms of trying to derive a budget which is rational, which was reasonable and which would not unduly harm particularly boys and girls of that community. We are saying here that that petition if it is successful, the election must be held a hundred and twenty days prior to the fiscal year of the subdivision involved. In this case it could be a city, a county or a school, however, I doubt that this petition will ever be used against a city or a county because they receive so much financial help from other sources that they don't have a great call upon property taxes. The final thing we say in this piece of legislation is that it would be retroactive. In other words, when this body passes 627, Omaha and Nebraska City, the two subdivisions that are under this particular provision they would have to review and renew the limitation if that was the desire of the community. I think that is reasonable