

used to do it this year, if I may Mr. Speaker. Senator Stoney, what about the time frame of getting this on the May ballot in Omaha and Nebraska City I'm not sure, I don't know that they have an election this spring, they would have to have a special election, what is the time frame for Omaha, do we have time to do it?

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Carsten before offering the amendment I did check with the Election Commissioner's office in the City of Omaha and was advised that if this bill were acted on and they knew what the decision was by April 13th of this year, they would have sufficient time through what the provisions of the bill would be, that being either the initiative process which I would not think would be utilized but rather the alternative of the Omaha School Board by a majority vote placing this on the ballot they would have sufficient time, if they were advised by April 13th to have that on the ballot May 12th and that would be no expense to the voters in the City of Omaha.

SENATOR CARSTEN: If I may ask a second question Mr. President. Senator Stoney, according to your amendment and my understanding you are changing the requirement of the percentage of voters back to 5%, is that correct from the 10 that we had adopted. Is that correct?

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Carsten, I appreciate your allowing me the opportunity to clarify that. I am in this one instance as it relates to the budget limitations on both of those school budgets, nothing subsequently, only on the vote of this initially. It would not change what you have in the bill. What it really does and Senator Koch in his comments regarding the change in the percentage really talks against those people that would place this on the ballot to remove the lid. Because, it makes it easier through the initiative process requiring only five percent to place it on the ballot than it would with the 10% which is indicative in the bill, but once again I say that this 5% would be in place only for the initial vote for Nebraska City and the Omaha Public Schools but the intent of the bill at 10% would remain in tact for subsequent elections should this issue be an issue again.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Then to follow up in the Nebraska City case Senator Stoney, without an election, a regular election, this spring the board then by majority vote of the board could call a special election or 5% of the voters by petition could have a special election. Is that my understanding of your amendment?