

to deal with this process because we're having a difficult time getting good quality people to run for office because of the recall tool that is out there that people are using as a harassment for public officials. So the Government Committee in 1987 did an interim study on the issue of recall and they held hearings in Omaha, Lincoln and Hastings, and one of the things that came out of this hearing is in the first part of the bill and that is one of the major changes that the bill makes, and that is that if you're going to have a recall petition, you're going to circulate a recall petition, you are going to have to state the reason why you're circulating a recall and why you are subjecting this public official to recall. We, the committee looked at a number of ways of doing that. There are some other states that we looked at. The State of Washington has one that is very, very strict. In the State of Washington you have to state the reasons, you have to show that there was either a misfeasance of malfeasance in office or some violation of their office oath if you are going to recall them. Also in the State of Washington the recall process is one where the judicial system gets involved to determine whether or not the reasons are valid. The committee decided to go with a measure that is not quite as strict as this and it simply calls for a general statement of reasons. It does not involve the judiciary in the State of Nebraska in this process. What it says is that you will state a reason and the reasons...and it does say that the reason cannot be just a decision that...a policy decision or something that an official has made in public office. It has to be more than that. The statement of reasons, of course, is one that whether or not it accomplishes a whole lot is debatable because it is a general statement of reasons. There is no process set up to determine whether the reasons are valid, but at least a public official that is being subject to recall would at least be able to visualize and be able to see on the petition at least a stated reason as to the recall. There have been a couple of recalls in the State of Nebraska where the...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Would you please hold it down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you, Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Thank you, Mr. President. There have been a couple of recalls in the State of Nebraska where when the people who were sponsoring a recall effort were asked why they were recalling the person they said we're not going to tell you, that's nobody business why we're recalling them. That was the statement they made to the press. I think that that shows that