

Nebraska, did just strike that prohibition. My understanding, from reading this legislation as it has been introduced, is that if you pay someone, you must pay them not less than the minimum wage. That doesn't prohibit, it doesn't prohibit someone from voluntarily distributing petitions for purposes of a ballot issue. It does not mandate that anyone who distributes or circulates petitions would have to be paid at least the minimum wage. And I would want to clarify that by just posing those comments that I made to Senator Withem, if he would yield to a question or two, Madam Chair. I would like to ask Senator Withem a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I'd be happy to.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Withem, am I correct in my understanding that this does not mandate payment, it just requires that if there is going to be payment, payment must be at a minimum, after the committee amendments, that of minimum wage?

SENATOR WITHEM: That certainly is the intent of the bill and I believe that is what the bill says. It does not impinge on voluntary, people voluntarily circulating petitions for no pay.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, so as an example, I think it was 1986, the LB 662, it was a bill that dealt with financing of schools. It was an issue that was put before the public on the ballot by a voluntary force, who went out and raised petition signatures through circulation, a voluntary effort, as a matter of fact, it was prior to the prohibition being struck with regard to payment of circulators, that would not apply to...that situation, that example would not apply here if a group had a similar kind of issue that they did on a voluntary effort?

SENATOR WITHEM: That certainly is the case. I just add this would not impact upon Ed Jaksha's efforts either, who uses voluntary people.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you very much, Senator Withem. The issue that Senator Schmit raises with regard to whether or not an issue like this could end up in court is a very legitimate issue. It is not a smoke screen. It is not something that I think you take lightly with regard to a bill like this, but that could very well happen if this bill were not passed, that there