

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of LB 382.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 382 advances. LB 115.

CLERK: LB 115 introduced by Senators Schimek, Baack, Wesely, Lindsay, Bernard-Stevens. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to Government, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President and members of the body, this bill is the bill which would change the way we distribute electoral college votes in the State of Nebraska. As you all know, we have five electoral votes based on the number of senators and representatives that we have statewide. What this bill would do would be to make the two presidential electors at large that kind of represent the Senates, the senators, and then take the other three votes and have them represent each congressional district and whatever the vote was in each congressional district then that is how that electoral vote would be cast. And that would enable us to send all five electoral votes for one candidate. We could divide up 4-1. We could divide up 3-2. Now during the discussion of this bill I found that many people did not really know that the electoral college is not something that is in the Constitution. It was simply begun by custom and the Constitution of the United States does say to each state in Article II of the Constitution it says, each state shall appoint in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct a number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in Congress. In other words, each state has the ability to choose how these electors will be apportioned. There are several states that are looking at this bill and at this concept. The State of Maine, in fact, has had this since, I believe, about 1968 and so far and it has not made any difference in their electoral vote. The States of North Carolina and Connecticut are also considering this concept and the bill has passed one house in North Carolina and is expected to pass the other house. A lot of people, I am sure, would wonder if this system had been in effect over the years if it would have changed the results of any of the electoral votes and