

Hopefully we may have an excellent model for a board to be chosen in a nonpartisan fashion to function that way and that's Senator Schimek's attempt and as I read through it and as I've worked on this issue, I think this continues to contribute towards the idea that we will have a board that has a specific function and that being to address election law without political party intervention but truly be an independent body who looks after the best interest of the voters of the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to the Schimek amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Schimek?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, I would just briefly explain again what the amendment does. It provides that if there is an independent party or a party, a legally recognized party, which means they have to go through filings with the Secretary of State and so forth, that it receive at least 5 percent of the entire vote of the state at a general election, then they would get a member added onto this Election Board. And the second thing it does, is it says that no more than four of the eight members of that...appointed members of that board may be of the same political party. So we try to keep a real bipartisan or nonpartisan, if you will, balance.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. We will now vote on the Schimek amendment to the Conway amendment on LB 579. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 19 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of Senator Schimek's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted. Are there further amendments on the desk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Yes, there are. The next amendment that I have is from Senator Chambers. Senator, would you like me to read this one? "On page 2, line 15, after "disability," add: "sufficient to impair substantially the ability to discharge the duties of a member." (Amendment appears on page 1331 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers.