

June 3, 1991

LB 186, 579A, 614

with Senator Landis, but I understand at this late hour it will cause problems for Senator Conway and so I'll withdraw this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Any discussion?

SENATOR WESELY: I withdraw it.

SPEAKER BAACK: It's withdrawn. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have nothing further to 614, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: We will now proceed to LB 579A.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to return LB 579A to Select File for a specific amendment. Senator, I have your and Senator Hall's AM2279 pending. (See AM2279 on pages 2812-13 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is Senator Hall's amendment and myself. What this does, I've distributed this and this is an amendment to the A bill and what this amendment is about is the cost of the possible special election. As you can see from the language drafted, it reads that if the Legislature calls a special election for the purpose of proposing an amendment, \$600,000 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Election Board if, indeed, 579A passes. What has occurred here is that there's been a little bit of con...well, not controversy but misunderstanding, I guess, that since we're really not in the habit of having special elections in the state there's a specific statute, State Statute 49-237, which says very clearly that if the Legislature calls a special election, the counties shall submit all cost to the state and they shall be reimbursed in full. That statute is very clear in what it says. Now, what this...there's been a variety of estimates and actually this is the low end of the stick and I guess if it'd actually go more than that, we'd have to deal with it on a deficit basis, but instead of totally ignoring that statute I certainly feel it is more prudent to plug something in for now so we all understand that there is a cost to this special election. And, as you can see for this A bill, it's drafted in such a way that it's only if 186 is adopted by 40 votes and put on the ballot in August. If that does pass with 40 votes, this