

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Wesely, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, and members. I want to express my appreciation to Senator Conway and the Government Committee for their action on this issue and for Senator Conway naming this a committee priority. What has happened is several years ago a court case determined that in Nebraska and other states where we had not allowed paid petition circulators that we could no longer stop that practice. And, if you recall, there was a number of controversies in the past few years about paid circulators of petitions and some...the public being very upset about that situation. There is nothing we can do about it because the court has ruled that we must allow for paid circulators. So the thought that both Senator Conway and I had was that we need to do something to identify for the public who the petition circulators are that are the volunteers, the citizen out there, the grass-roots level trying to be involved in this process and who was out there trying to make money in circulating petitions. And one thought that we had was to have a badge on the circulator saying that they were paid petition circulators so people would know that and it might influence the decision they make to go ahead and sign just to get along, you know, with somebody, be cooperative. But we found that there was a difficulty in requiring that. The committee found another solution and this, I think, will help for the general public to know whether they are signing a petition, whether that petition is done by a volunteer or somebody out there being paid. And I do think it makes a difference to the general public. In addition, I know that there are some other issues to determining election reform that we've looked at but, in my view, the whole question of how petitions are handled is of great interest and I would hope that we would advance this bill and allow the public some more information about who is out there promoting petitions and whether they're paid or not. So, with that, I would ask for your support for the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: We have an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Haberman would move to amend the