

August 6, 1992      LB 5, 9

this year, referred to the Government Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Government Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, LB 9 was introduced, as was LB 5, both heard in committee, both addressing literally the same concept that needed to be in place. If, in fact, or because of a situation that we have already had primary elections in the state for districts and then those districts change their geographical configurations from what those original primaries were, then, obviously, that negates and/or creates a different situation for what happens now, so to speak. Those two bills were introduced. Senator David Bernard-Stevens introduced LB 5. I introduced LB 9 in attempt to provide a vehicle for addressing that. The committee amendments...and we can get to the bill in a second in terms of providing the procedural techniques to have names put on the ballot and the like. The committee amendments include some concerns that...and some things that came out of discussion with election officials, with the Secretary of State, amongst one another, providing some situations to help clarify that process. One of the concerns we had and the Secretary of State shared with us as well is that under the other petitioning techniques when you have a vacancy on the ballot and we're basically taking that kind of language and that technique as a means for people to be on that ballot is, and with the short period of time, one of the problems is how many signatures do you have to have. And under the other procedures we used to use a standard of 5 percent of the number of people who voted in the last gubernatorial election. Well, the 5 percent of what district, what configuration of that district? And it would be very hard to take the new district and go back and ferret out what was that 5 percent figure. As we have done in many other petitioning techniques, we have come up with a set figure and what the committee felt was probably the best approach and comes up with very near that same signature number, very near that same burden, would be to have a 2 percent of the targeted population for all legislative districts. In this case, we're talking about 32,212 are the number of...or population target number in each district and if you took 2 percent of that figure, you would be talking about having to have 645 signatures from this new configured district and that worked out to be very close to what typically that 5 percent of the Governor's