

March 13, 1995

LB 337
LR 6, 22

CLERK: 26 ayes, 2 nays, Madam President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Schimek to open on the bill.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I think if you will look on your desk there is a section by section summary of the bill which will help you identify the important things that the bill does and I'd just like to go through them with you, if I may, but before I do I'd like to say, you know, there has been a lot of publicity about LR 6CA and LR 22CA, but I think that this bill has potential for helping the petition process more than either of those two bills and the reason is because this bill does set in statutes some provisions which will help educate the public, which will help educate the petition circulators, which will help make a more uniform interpretation of signatures statewide and I think it's very important. In the bill on Section 2, you will notice that the Secretary of State is required to print a manual which would describe the petition process for those people who want to circulate a petition. And frankly, it is much needed. I think the petition people who have circulated petitions in the past will tell you that and one of the things the task force looked is what some other states were doing. This is the manual put together in the State of Oregon that tells step by step what a circulator needs to do in order to get a petition on the ballot in Oregon. At this time, there is nothing like that and so the petitioners sort of stumble around, if you will, trying to find out what the proper procedure is. The third section of the bill goes over the part that we just dealt with and it says that the petition shall state whether this petition is being distributed by a paid or a volunteer circulator, so that the public will know. The fourth thing that it says is that circulators must be registered in Nebraska for now it will be one month prior to circulation. Section 5 requires a statement of the object and text of the measure is to be submitted to the Secretary of State. He or she shall have the Revisor of Statutes review the proposed measure and suggest changes to form and draftsmanship. One of the things that we know is that petition circulators or the petition drafters don't have access to any higher authority, if you will, like we do when we draft a bill or a constitutional amendment. We can go to the Revisor of Statutes and have them get it in a shape so that it will be constitutional and so that it will be in accordance with our own statutes. There have been