

February 1, 1996 LB 964

more than residents, you see.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah, okay. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: So I would, I would accept a friendly amendment to further raise it if you so desire.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I'd like to continue the conversation if I may, first of all, saying that I'm sure I'm going to support your bill with the possible cost/benefits and increased voter participation. I certainly think it's worth the experiment. What I wanted to do with you just a little bit is explore some fringe kinds of questions, just...I don't know much about this area, just kind of to get a better perspective on the whole thing. One thing that is in our constitution, though, has to do with the secrecy of ballots. And I was trying to follow this process and it looked to me like you tried to follow the absentee ballot statutes fairly...fairly closely. I suppose there's maybe a difference between an absentee ballot and this kind of a ballot in the sense that an absentee ballot you can choose to do it that way or you can choose not to do it that way. If you have an election, this way you have to do it this way. When these ballots are opened, as I understand it, there's an envelope that has your name on it...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and inside is your ballot.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Now, the person who opens that envelope, is that going to be the same person that looks at the ballot inside?

SENATOR CUDABACK: No, that envelope will be thrown away. The envelope it's enclosed in, encased in or whatever, will be thrown away and these will be laid over and these will be opened without any knowledge of who voted which way. It is absolute_y the same way we treat absentee ballots. We followed the