

February 1, 1996 LB 964

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, just let me ask quickly, what does the amendment...what does it strike in the bill?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Senator Beutler, it strikes Section...it strikes paragraph (1) of Section 4. It's on page 4, lines 26 and 27.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Just subsection (1)?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Warner, on the Schimek amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Yeah, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, appreciate Senator Beutler's question because I thought I heard the Clerk just say strike Section 4, and that would have really bothered me. But apparently it's just the, the limit...I would be one who would be very hesitant to open this wide open to every possible election I guess you could have that dealt with issues. It's probably a bit old-fashioned, I suppose, but I honestly believe that people who make the effort to go to the polls generally are also people who make the effort to inform themselves. And I tend to believe that responsible government doesn't start with voting, it starts with informing yourself on the issues and then vote. And that may be a bit harsh or it may be going against what, what we think is the popular vote, but democracy survives if you're informed, not just because you went and scratched the ballot. So I am willing...I had decided I would be willing to support this on some limited area, that it would make sense in many small district, regional-type elections, bond issues, so perhaps might be appropriate. But to get it more broad scale would...I would be concerned about...about doing that. I could certainly support using registered voters instead of population simply because it's easier to determine, but I wouldn't want to see that at 5,000. I certainly would want a much smaller number. I don't know what the number ought to be, but I'd be very hesitant to have it at 5,000, but that's much simpler to determine because we have so many subdivisions that do not necessarily coincide with census lines so that the registered voters could