

February 1, 1996 LB 964

just state it that way. I'd be real skeptical if we were the first.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Do most of them leave it as an option?

SENATOR CUDABACK: The states love it. Everything I can read...

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, but I mean do they leave it as an option...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to the governing boards, most of them?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I think they do, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Do they? Okay. The other thing I wanted to ask, the other states that do this, do they send out envelopes that are prepaid as far as postage is concerned? Or is it like our bill where the voter pays the postage?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I guess the point is if you want to send out a stamp with each one, some would not return it. They'd keep the stamp or whatever. I think I go along with Senator Warner's idea here a little bit, you've got to put some of the "want" onto the shoulder of the person who's going to vote. If they do not want to spend twenty-five cents or thirty cents or whatever it is, or they can walk, they can drive to the place to bring the ballot back, but they have to want a little bit. I mean, let's just don't make this a absolutely a...you know, a pushover type thing.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But the only reason I'm exploring this particular question is because at one point in time in our history there was an enormous sensitivity to poll taxes and other types of any kind of expense that a voter had in order to vote. And I know that a postage stamp sounds de minimis, and in most of our minds is de minimis. I would hope the courts would say it was de minimis.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But do we know whether that passes constitutional muster all right? I assume it does if...