

February 1, 1996 LB 964

throughout the state of Nebraska, would be able to do it...to do the policy. I get concerned when we are saying that the election commissioner will send out a ballot to all registered voters, and then they need to vote, they can vote on that issue from that ballot and send it in. And there won't be any voting day. I get concerned when there's not a bill...there's not anything in the bill, to my knowledge, though rules and regs may cover it, is what hap...well, what happens if after the voting day, if because of the mail, a ballot comes in late? That's not really covered, but I assume that would be on rules and regs. I get concerned on 30 percent or more in some counties of the voter registration lists that re not accurate. And you're going to have a ballot sitting in a mailbox somewhere and anyone can pick that up and sign it and send it in. And it may be caught on the signature, it may not be caught on the signature. I get concerned when all of a sudden the ballots are out there now and somebody says we're going to throw a party for all those in favor, and your ticket to get into the party is your ballot. Bring your ballot, let's get together, we're going to have a pro school finance meeting, whatever the case may be,...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...and we'll all get our ballots going together. I get concerned when we have people that will go face-to-face to people at their house when they have a ballot there that we don't have in today's election. And it may be a side issue, but I was contemplating, is it even constitutional to force people to pay to vote? Because, see, when you do absentee you volunteer, you volunteer, say I will take the ballot and I will send it in. But in this case everyone actually, technically has to put the stamp, even though we can all afford it, to vote. I don't know if you can do that in this country, mandate everyone pays, otherwise if they don't do the stamp they can't vote. I'm reaching, but nonetheless I think about those things. The bill itself, as far as I'm concerned, is not a good policy. I know Senator Chambers has some amendments that he wishes to have done, Senator Beutler has some, Senator Cudaback has given us...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...a reason to do so. And at this point, I will withdraw the motion so that we can get to those