

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 18, 1999 LB 234

That committee does report the bill to General File with committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Suttle, you are recognized to open on the bill.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. (LB) 234 allows county election commissioner or a county clerk to create an electronic image photograph, microphotograph, or reproduction in an electrical digital format to be used as the permanent voter registration record when a clerk or commissioner receives the original affidavit of registration. The electronic records created may constitute the permanent voter registration register to be kept by the clerk or the commissioner. Governing magazine recently gave the state of Nebraska a report card of grade C+ in information technology. We have a lot of work to do, to get caught up to today's real world. In the same way the Legislature should not stand in the way of local governments, we should give them the authority and the tools to keep up. This bill helps in a way...in one, small way. You will.... In Douglas County, the Election Commissioners Office, the business conducted with voter registration records is routinely done electronically. It makes sense. It's easier and it's cheaper. The hard copy files are not used, but the hard copy files are maintained because we mandate it by statute. If they are not used, why do we continue to mandate it? It is certainly important that records that important and basic, as voter registration, be accurate and safe. With the technology available today it can be done more easily and cheaper electronically. This bill does provide property tax relief. The Douglas County Election Commissioner estimates the provisions of the bill eliminates \$10,000 for a file clerk, in addition to the space savings. Appreciate if you would pass this bill. And I do believe there are, Mr. Clerk, committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Schimek, you are recognized to open on the committee amendments. (See Standing Committee amendment, AM0249, printed separately and referred to on page 560 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the