

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

February 18, 1999 LB 802

of elections may currently perform, including initialling of ballots. And they have not been able to do that before. It does allow county clerks who perform the election duties to appoint district inspectors to supervise one or more precincts. Currently, election commissioners can do that, but county clerks can't. It establishes an incumbent filing date of July 15th for those offices that file prior to the general election, like NRDs, for instance, and establishes a withdrawal deadline for those filings. It clarifies that only candidate filings that are filed with the Secretary of State's Office may be faxed. It removes the reasons for requesting an absentee ballot and just simply allows for that absentee ballot to be requested. The bill originally allowed for a two-envelope absentee system, rather than a three. The committee chose to amend that. And then it allows counties that hand-count to verify information on absentee ballot envelopes the day before the election. And that pretty much sums up the main provisions of the bill. As I said, I don't think they're controversial. And I would be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You are recognized to open on the committee amendments. (See Standing Committee amendment, AM0320, on page 560 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members. This amendment strikes the provision that was originally in the bill that provides for a two-envelope system. And let me...let me explain that system a little bit. When an absentee ballot is requested, currently, the county clerk or election commissioner sends back that absentee ballot in an envelope, and enclosed in that envelope are two other envelopes. One of them has a voter identification number on it, and one of them is just a plain envelope. Currently then, when you fill out the absentee ballot, you send the envelope with the voter ID on it back with the plain envelope enclosed in that, and within that plain envelope is the ballot itself. So that when it gets to the county clerk or election commissioner they open that outer envelope, they record the voter ID, to show that that ballot has been received, and then they put the...the plain envelope in a ballot box, and that's put aside for counting later. The committee did not.... Well, the committee was afraid that, if