

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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Another reason why I stand to oppose this bill would be on the next page, if you turn on page 6, it gives the legislative powers, and that's the...in Section 1, it sets forth when the legislative authority of this state shall be vested in a Legislature consisting of one chamber, but the very next sentence says that the people reserve for themselves, however, the power to propose laws, and amendments to the constitution, and to enact or reject the same at the polls, independent of the Legislature, and also reserve the power at their own option to approve or reject at the polls any act, item, section, or any part of any act passed by the Legislature. In effect, what George Norris did when he set forth the Unicameral is set forth the people of the state of Nebraska as the second house, and I believe that allowing the Secretary of State, whoever that person may be, to pass on the constitutionality or the legality of an issue before it's even on the ballot I think jumps the gun and does violate the separation of state...separation of powers. And so for that reason, that's the reason why I voted against this bill getting it out of committee, and that's also the reason why I guess I'd urge my colleagues to vote red on this also. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. Senator Vrtiska, please.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Coordsen, members of the body. I, in deference to my good friend colleague, Senator Quandahl, I do rise in support of this amendment. I think that in listening to the testimony and discussing the issue, I think this is an issue again where it seemed to me like the cost of running these and then finding out in fact that they were not...would not meet the constitutional test is something we should certainly deal with and, to me, that's, basically, what we're trying to do is to make sure that these are, in fact, meet the test before the time and effort is taken up to, in fact, get these on the ballot. So I understand what Senator Quandahl is saying, and it is something that is worthy of discussion but I, again, believe that we're just trying to make sure that the proper procedure is followed and we don't...we don't spend time and effort for nothing on some of these issues as has been demonstrated in the past. And with that, I will continue to support the LB 729. Thank you, Honorable Chair. I'll pa...I'll