

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

May 5, 1999

LR 18

group heartache or they don't like it, they can simply petition, or this Legislature can pass a law, that would propose to remove or repeal that particular constitutional amendment, and that would take care of the problem. That's a part of our constitution already. In short, I guess I'd like to read from the Platte County Election Commissioner, did send a letter around to at least the members of the Government Committee, and she was very strongly opposed to LR 18CA. She wrote: To require two votes of the people to place an initiative on the constitution seems unfair and, again, costly. The initiative process is the first power reserved to the people to enact laws and constitutional amendments independently of the Legislature. Are we trying to make this process harder to use? Should the Legislature have similar restraints placed on their process to be fair? Again, it would greatly increase the cost of elections. Please vote against LR 18CA. And that brings up kind of an interesting question in that she says that, you know, if...if...if changing the constitution is something that is weighty and it does require a lot of consideration, should we require the Legislature and, as a matter of fact, this constitutional amendment does propose that anything proposed by the Legislature to change the constitution also go through this two-vote procedure. But that's not something or that's not a restraint that we place on ourselves. When we pass laws and when we pass bills here, we don't require that it be passed by two separate Legislatures or two separate legislative sessions. Just one is enough, and that's the way the constitution is and that's why I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this proposed constitutional amendment. Simply put, LR 18CA is not necessary. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I was one of those that was here, Senator Kristensen was talking about, 13 years ago and since, and I've been involved personally with a couple of these petition drives. He...Senator Kristensen says that it looks easy and somewhat faddish, but it really isn't easy and I think that the people who are doing it don't consider it faddish. I think they are very serious about what they're doing. Cost is extremely difficult for them. Some of the people that Senator Kristensen