

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

May 11, 1999

LB 457, 571

county due to the other issues on the ballot, the number of ballot sheets, the type of equipment used in the county and the number of precincts. The Secretary of State testified in favor of this bill. He assured the committee that his office would set out rules and regulations to smooth the differences shown on this chart. Wide discrepancies would be closely questioned. He also agrees that legislatively mandated ballot questions place a burden on counties working under lids. I feel it is only fair that the state reimburse counties for the cost of constitutional amendments on the primary and general election ballots. With that, Mr. President, I would just ask the body advance or adopt AM1537. I'd be happy to answer any questions if I could. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Robak. For discussion on AM1537, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Robak mentioned that this was LB 457 originally, and the bill did advance to General File. If you will notice, there were two senators who voted against its advancement. These two senators don't always vote together but Senator Quandahl and Senator Schimek voted against the advancement of this bill. And probably what united us on this was the appropriation bill that accompanied it, and I think people should be aware of that. The original A bill said that it would be, and Senator Robak, you'll have to tell me if it's any different now, but \$532,000, half a million dollars plus, and I think everybody should be aware of that, of what this amendment could cost, and whether, you know, I don't know whether we'd want...I'd want to advance a bill with a half a million dollar price tag on it at this point in time. But, Senator Robak, maybe you could answer and tell me if this is...if my information is still accurate and up-to-date on your amendment.

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes, it is accurate and up-to-date, and that would be not each year, it'd be each election year...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right.

SENATOR ROBAK: ...that this cost would be, and it's...the cost per petition is estimated at \$76,000. So it appears to be