

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

May 11, 1999

LB 571

discussion on the Robak amendment to LB 571, Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Senator Quandahl, that handout that I passed was just for that past election. It was not...it is not going to be the same for the future elections. As I stated before, the estimated cost per petition is estimated at \$76,000 and, as far as I know, we have just two constitutional amendments that would be put on the ballot this year by the Legislature. So you can see that we wouldn't have that much cost every year. And sometimes they differ because of the number of issues on the ballot plus number of precincts in a county make a huge difference in prorated numbers. The Secretary of State's election deputy has been out in the counties working on this issue ever since this bill was introduced and he states it's no big deal. They can straighten that out easily in the Secretary of State's Office. They do it all the time. As a matter of fact, he also said that this could be processed, if we statutorily say the state owes this, then it could be handled much like the publishing bill for newspapers in the state and literally that occurs when it has to be published three times in newspapers in the state and it's approved by the Governor. I think it's proper to give statutory authority to pay the bill, still run it through the claims process, probably, and then what will happen is those counties are all going to submit a bill. The Secretary of State's Office would have to recommend to the Claims Board what to pay and we could go through that process and make sure to explain some of these differences. It was strongly supported by the Secretary of State and, as I said before, they are...have been working on it. Some counties do a pure paper ballot while some counties do a computer. There are differing ways that different counties do it. Obviously, with the different split you've got some townships and things like that, there could be a master bid maybe because I think the majority of them are buying paper from one company now anyhow. But there's differing ways it could go on, and you know as long as there is 93 different counties that run their elections, there's a degree in difficulty in doing that. So I think that there is some...there is handout there but that was just for that one ballot, one ballot issue, or rather one ballot print, publication, in the last election. We don't have that every year. We only have elections every two years, so the fiscal note isn't really that high. Divide that