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LB 571

too much rhyme or reason to these figures and that was another reason I questioned it in committee. It would be better if we had a more consistent reimbursement amount perhaps, and we did talk about that, if I recall, in committee a little bit, about just setting an overall price per voter if you were going to do the reimbursement. That's the first point I wanted to make. The second point that I want to make is I want to make sure that you all understand that what we're really talking about here are not the publishing costs in the newspapers, but the actual printing of the ballots. And so, again, that would make you question, a little bit, some of these figures if you look at the population of counties why is there so much disparity in these figures. I think if we're going to do this we need a better way for determining costs for placing these amendments on the ballot.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Vrtiska on the Robak amendment to LB 571.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just want to follow-up a little bit of discussion we had earlier and that has...in regard to what Senator Schimek's been talking about. First of all, I did talk to NACO and they did prepare that sheet, but they acknowledged that some of the information is not very adequate. But they did tell me that screening some of the, what they would consider, accurate numbers they would run about 35, around 35 percent of the total cost of an election would be the cost for the printing of the constitutional amendments, for the printing costs and the paper costs, and that charge is charged back to the county. They're in the process of preparing an accurate number by getting a hold of some of these counties to find out why some of these numbers are not any more accurate than they are. And then you have to also acknowledge one thing that perhaps some of you don't understand. In some places they have a lot of subdivisions, they have a lot of other entities who are...who are in the mix that certainly change the dynamics, so there will never be a very totally consistent cost related because there are townships, there are other subdivisions that also charge their costs into this, and they pay them. So it really does not...there will never be a real consistent cost based on...but I was informed that probably around 35 percent of the total cost