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LB 571

of the printing would be in fact the cost that would go to the constitutional amendments that were put in. And I revert back to the issue that I said earlier and that is these are things that we requested the counties to do and, as Senator Schimek pointed out, the cost of the publishing in the newspapers is already paid for by the state and it would appear to me then, as a follow-up, they should also pay for this because this is a mandate for the counties to take care of that they really don't have any control over. And also I remind the body that this particular...this particular cost that are passed out are an unusual year because of the constitutional convention that was held and all of the number of constitutional amendments that were put on the ballot to be paid for that did cost over what the average cost would be in a normal year. So putting those things all together, the cost is certainly not going to be to the excessive amount that's on that particular piece of paper that you have in front of you. And, again, I want to reiterate that this is a cost that has to be paid by somebody. It has to either be paid by the county or by the state and, in any event, it's going to be paid by the taxpayers. Now, is it fair to make the various counties absorb that cost under their lids, or should we say that the state, as they do with the printing, should pick up the cost? And I think, in all reality, to be consistent with what we've done in other areas, even though this is, and Senator Schimek indicated, a new direction, at the same time we are in fact paying for the costs of the publishing of these amendments and it would only seem consistent to me that we would also pay for the cost of the printing and the paper and the ballots and that stuff that go...that cost that goes with it. So I'm just suggesting that this is a good amendment and would ask you to support it on to the...on to the main...main bill. With that, thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR ROBAK: Yeah, thank you, Mr. President. As I said before, that sheet that I handed out was strictly for one year, that last election year. It probably isn't too accurate the way some...some of the counties prorated their...or scan...used scanners or however they reported their costs. However, the costs would be probably \$76,000 per petition and that's every