

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 729

or referendum more understandable to Nebraska citizens. I believe it would clarify for the citizens the constitutional question surrounding a ballot issue, and therefore make it more understandable and, I might add, more cost-effective. Finally, the AG's Opinion does not say definitely that this bill is unconstitutional. And I mentioned that once before, but I want to stress that. It certainly should leave a question in any legislator's mind about the opinion. Again, it is our responsibility to set public policy, and it is up to the courts to interpret the laws we make, not the AG.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Dierks, on the Quandahl amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I was interested in another point of view that appeared in the World-Herald, oh a week ago, I think, or maybe a little longer, that Senator Quandahl had in there regarding this piece of legislation. I have been a strong supporter, year in and year out, of the initiative process, initiative and referendum process. I think that's part of our...the heritage that our citizens have with regard to the whole unicameral process; allows them another leg up as far as problems that they have with the Legislature. And by the way, Senator Chambers, I'm still trying to figure out what a lunkhead is. Maybe that makes me one, I'm not sure. But anyway, I'm not going to support this bill either. I haven't really decided what to do with Senator Quandahl's amendment, but I think that what we've done is provide another stumbling block or bridge that the people will have to get over in order to have their initiative or referendum placed on the ballot, and I just object to that. I think that they have enough difficulty, especially those citizens who don't have funding to support initiative process, they have to do it on just private, Joe Citizen, it's difficult for them. And I don't think we need to throw up any more roadblocks for them. So I, at this point I'm not going to support LB 729 and I would urge other people not to also. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Chambers, on the amendment.