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January 30, 2003 LB 357

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schimek, would you like to open on LB 357, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LB 357 implements the voter registration provisions of the federal law. And I'm going to go through this section by section and just give you a brief idea of what's in each of these sections. In Section 1, the Secretary of State is required, required, to implement a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive, computerized statewide voter registration list, to be maintained and administered by the Secretary of State's Office. The list will contain the name and registration information of every legally registered voter, and assign each voter a unique identifier. The computerized list will be coordinated with other agency databases, and will be available for election officials. The computerized list will serve as the official voter registration list. Right now, those official voter registration lists reside in the county election officials' offices. But county election officials will still be able to electronically enter voter registration information when they receive it. The Secretary of State will provide adequate security measures to prevent unauthorized access. And here is the provision that says, no General Funds will be appropriated for purposes of the voter registration list. And until the statewide voter registration list is operational, the local election officials will continue to furnish and prepare that voter registration register. Section 2 talks about the Secretary of State and the Director of Motor Vehicles entering into an agreement to match information on the voter registration list with information on the Department of Motor Vehicles database, to verify the accuracy of the information provided on voter registration forms. The Director of Motor Vehicles will enter into an agreement with the commissioner of Social Security, to verify Social Security number information. Section 3. The voter registration form will be changed to require an applicant to first answer questions regarding citizenship status and voting age, before completing the rest of the form. The applicant also will be required to provide a Nebraska driver's license number. If the applicant does not have a driver's license, the applicant is required to provide the last four digits of his or her Social Security number. If