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FLOOR DEBATE

February 21, 2003 LB 56, 537

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 56 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: LB 537 was a bill introduced by Senator Schimek. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21 of this year, referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on LB 537.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would like to introduce LB 537 which is a bill to provide for a change as to where filing fees are paid under the Election Act. And this would stipulate that in races where the Secretary of State actually is the filing officer, the filing fee would be paid to the Secretary of State. And the candidates that this would apply to would be any national, state or congressional offices, directors of public power districts and irrigation districts, directors of reclamation districts and natural resources districts, Educational Service Units, community colleges, delegates to national conventions, and any other office filed (sic-filled) by election held in more than one county and judges desiring retention. And the Secretary of State would remit the filing fees to the State Treasurer for credit to the Voter Registration Cash Fund. It is expected...and, incidentally, I did introduce this on behalf of the Secretary of State's Office, and it is expected that this would probably bring about \$12,000 into the Secretary of State's Office which would normally go to your political subdivisions when those candidates file for office. The reason the Secretary of State asked for this is because they provide a service to the news media and many other interested parties on election night when they provide all of the election returns, collect all the data and everything, and they apparently need upgrades in their equipment, and that's what they would like to use this money for. And so with that, I would just say that I hope that you will vote to advance this to E & R Initial. Thank you, Mr. Chair.