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FLOOR DEBATE

March 18, 2003 LB 72A, 357A, 357

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to advance LB 72A to E & R for engrossing. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB 357A. No E & R's. Senator Schimek would move to amend the bill. (AM0855, Legislative Journal page 921.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, you're recognized.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank...I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. President and members. I think you'll remember that on General and Select we had three bills, the trilogy of election bills. And this is the first of those bills, LB 357, the A bill for that. And I'm not going to explain the A bill too much because we're actually going to amend that and we're going to strike all the sections of the A bill. And so what I'm going to explain to you now is the amendment, AM0855. And what this amendment will do is, will take \$150,000 from the Election Administration Fund for this fiscal year, and give to the Secretary of State to aid in carrying out provisions of the bill. And it will take \$2,230,000 from that Election Administration Fund for next year, for the Secretary of State. And what this will do is it will spend the \$150,000 to begin implementing the requirements for the Help America Vote Act, including statewide voter registration system. And actually, the funds will be needed to create requests for proposals. And then next year, that \$2,230,000 will begin to be used for the implementation, including purchase of equipment, software, and so forth. Now, this...\$5 million will be coming in this year in early April or May, and that money...since that money will be here during this fiscal year, it was decided the Secretary of State should be allowed to use that money to start the projects. And this early out money requires no matching funds. Now, Nebraska will receive another disbursement of money sometime in the fall, and it is expected that it will be approximately \$4 million. This money will require a 5 percent match from the state. And in order to receive that money, the state needs to appropriate that 5 percent match. And so on this amendment, we're going to add an emergency clause, as well as transfers