TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2005 LB 217

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if anybody is interested in this amendment, you can find it on your And although I haven't called it up on mine, the staff is so competent around here that I know it has been done, and as I get the gadget operational, it is there. I'm amending the white copy of the bill that we're working from, which is AM0614. Senator Beutler persuaded the body to adopt an amendment with which I agree, that when you're talking about the percentage of voters, the percentage of signatures that you have to get, it would be based on the number of people who actually voted rather than registered voters. I like that amendment; however, there's another problem. We should not hold out to the public the idea that they are being given the opportunity to express objection to a proposed action by a governing body, if in fact what we offer is ineffective and totally impractical of being acted on. This bill, as it's drafted, could involve some very small entities, and it may not be difficult to obtain signatures of 15 percent of the electorate in those small entities, but it also would include the public schools of Omaha. And 30 days, which is the amount currently in the bill during which these signatures can be collected, would be woefully inadequate to give anybody a semi-realistic opportunity to collect signatures equal to 15 percent of the number of people who voted in the prior election. So what my amendment would do, on page 3, in line 22; on page 4, in line 11; strike the word "thirty" and insert the word "sixty" so that the number of days available to obtain signatures on this petition, remonstrance petition, would be increased from 30 to 60. You get a few more days. That still is a very short time. Anybody who has tried to get signatures on a petition, valid signatures, will understand that it's not the easiest thing in the world to I've talked it over with So this is very reasonable. Senator Flood, Senator Schimek, and they agree. So if anybody else has a question that you would like to put to me, I'm prepared to answer it. I hope I've said enough to give my rationale for the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on the Chambers amendment, FA79. Open for discussion. Senator Schimek.