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LB 682

current term, as well as be elected to the coming term. I think that's practical. I think it's an excellent proposal, and I fully support it. There's also a provision in the bill, LB 682, that we've adopted on how to deal with a vacancy that would occur after the general election in November, and we again would take the winner of that race in November and we would call them the winner for the remainder of the term, as well as the upcoming term. It's very, very practical. The concern I had was in the term between the primary that may have been fought in May and the general election, if in fact there is a vacancy in office in Congress, we have already established who the winners of the primary are, but under the terms of the bill, they fall into the category of all other dates where, in fact, they would find their way onto a ballot for a special election, if their party so designated. You assume that it might be the winners of the primary. But then there's a provision for any other person to file, just pay a filing fee, put their name on the ballot, and in fact, then we have a primary fought over again, perhaps during the summer. That seems somewhat inefficient. It seems somewhat impractical, and it seems somewhat unfair to the candidates who have already invested a lot of time and energy and financing into fighting a primary battle. So I was looking at what might serve Nebraska's purposes best. And certainly it's important to us under the federal system where seniority matters as far as committee appointments and any kind of power as far as getting legislation passed, that seniority matters. So it would behoove Nebraska to put in place someone who could maintain that seat for us and continue in that office. Having a free-for-all in a special election where, in fact, you have a low turnout, might not serve our interests best. So what the bill, or the amendment that I'm asking you to return for would do, is create a petition process which would be very similar to what the committee has put in place for a vacancy that occurs after August 1. If you look at other vacancies we have in office, we have had certainly legislative seats here in the State Legislature that have been emptied, and they've occurred after the filing deadline for the election process in election years, and we require those candidates to go out and get signatures and petition to be on the ballot. It is troublesome, but it is not onerous, and I think it's fair. If you cannot find enough people to sign a petition that support your