

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 682

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Redfield, you're recognized to open on AM1325 to LB 682.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The amendment, AM1325, increases the time frame for the election for vacancies that occur before August 1 from 60 days to 90 days. That would allow 25 days for them to gather signatures and petition onto the ballot. It also allows some time for the Secretary of State's Office to validate those signatures. The reason I believe this would be a preferable policy on our choice...or, on our part, is because, in fact, we don't have final elections that we allow people to file. We have had vacancies here in the Legislature, and the process is to go and to get the signatures and petition onto the ballot. Certainly, if there is a vacancy that occurs after a primary, we require people to petition and get the signatures to put their name on the ballot. If you have been through a primary and you have determined...the public has determined the winner of that primary, I think we want to recognize the public's input, and not create a process whereby the loser of that primary can, by filing a fee, put their name right back on the ballot for the position, even though it would only be for the remainder of that term. So we're talking about a temporary position. It would fill the vacancy up until the time that we had the general election and elected the permanent replacement for the following year, following term. I know it's been confusing. It was confusing when the bill was on General File. And we talked a lot about the constitutional provisions, and we really didn't get into this provision of the bill. So I thought that this might be more consistent with our current policy. I would like to see us be consistent in law, as...in as many areas as we can. And I look forward to the questions that might arise during the debate. I would ask your consideration of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. You've heard the opening on AM1325. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Redfield amendment, AM1325. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Redfield, I just want to make sure that everybody