May 19, 2005   LB 566

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Open for discussion.
Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature.
Senator Schimek, just some questions, if I might.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know if you've had many inquiries
about the possibility of computer fraud in elections, but I know
there are some people concerned about that, about the rigging of
computers, about the ability of programmers to surreptitiously
fix computers.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You're talking about equipment such as the...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Election equipment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...electrical scanners, optical scanners, I
mean,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right, right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...and the screens that we use for those with
disabilities.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes. And I don't know hardly anything in this
area, but I assume that with the increasing technologies and the
great sophistication that is now somewhat prevalent in our
society with regard to computer programming, that such a thing
would be possible.   My question is this: With regard to
equipment that's used every election cycle, what kinds of
safeguards, if any, are there to check on the appropriate
programming of computers, of the computers that run these
tabulating machines, and the kinds of machines that we're using
in the election process?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Beutler, that's a good question.   I'm
really glad to have the questions, because I think it could
clear up some questions that other members of the body have come