

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

May 19, 2005

LB 566

to me with, because they've heard from some of these same constituents. First of all, the election commissioners, before each election, check--do dry runs with their equipment or whatever, to check to make sure that everything is in order. And we've been using optical scanners in this state for a very long time, particularly, I know, here in Lancaster County. And there's never even been a hint of anything like that occurring. But they do...they do check the equipment frequently. Secondly, one of the things that the group of, I believe they call themselves, Concerned Citizens has been contacting senators about is the fact that these, I believe they're called, DREs, these screens by which those with disabilities can vote, kind of like an ATM machine, and there's going to be at least one of those in each precinct in Nebraska, starting in the year 2006. They've been concerned because they thought there should be a paper trail with that equipment. And it's something that the Government Committee has had briefings on from time to time, that the Secretary of State has been evaluating for quite a while. But the Secretary of State has finally decided that the paper ballots are necessary for several reasons, but probably the most prominent reason is so that people will feel secure that their election system is transparent; that the results are verifiable. And so I believe that the Secretary of State's office has explained to Concerned Citizens that there will be paper ballots, but I don't know that something is being lost in the translation. Those machines are in order; they will provide that security for us.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, I appreciate that explanation. Secondly,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the, you know, just looking through this bill and understanding that this bill isn't a tenth part of the entire election law, we have county clerks out there who have a lot of responsibilities with regard to all kinds of county activities, who are also the election commissioners and have to deal with this whole complex of laws, who are also clerks of the district court and have to deal with a whole complex set of laws. How is it that we expect these people to do an adequate