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LB 566

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Connealy. Senator Connealy waives his time. Any further discussion? Senator Flood? Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Schimek, forgive me for getting in on the end of this discussion, but there are other bad bills. Yours is not among the bad ones. I should have said other bills which are bad, that I've been working on. The Speaker is really putting the lumber to me today, but I'm not going to whine and complain. What caught my attention was when you said there might be fraud here, because there can be in every system, so bear with me as I ask you, what is the issue that you and Senator Beutler have been discussing?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The issue, Senator Chambers, was whether a utility bill was enough identification when you are applying for a voter registration. And I explained that some of these provisions do come from the federal act and this...I checked with staff, this does happen to be one of them. The idea is not to make it so difficult for somebody to vote that they can't do it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the utility bill is acceptable under...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, another thing that I wasn't aware of, because it's been so long ago that I registered, and if it wasn't for the fact that people of my complexion were not allowed to vote as early as some others, I was about to tell one of my famous fibs about how long ago it was that I first registered. But some people, knowing history, would be aware that I wasn't telling the truth. I was going to talk about how Abraham Lincoln and I had melted some candles down to get enough to put it in a lamp so we could go to the registrar and scratch out our little registration with a piece of charcoal, but...and some people might have said, wow, Ernie, you really are dedicated. I couldn't tell that fib. But here's what I wanted to ask you: When did a person have to start showing identification in order to register to vote? It was so long ago