

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 119

Introduced by Avery, 28.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the initiative and referendum process, particularly the issue of how petitions are circulated. In the past few years, concerns regarding petition circulators have been the subject of several public hearings and bills to address the problem. In 2008, a bill was passed to limit how petition circulators can be paid and required petition circulators to be eligible to vote in order to circulate petitions. In 2009, LB 575 was introduced and heard by the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. The bill outlined how to investigate a potential violation regarding a signer or circulator of an initiative or referendum petition.

The issues to be examined by the interim study shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Determining how best to investigate potential violations of the initiative and referendum process;

(2) Studying the issue of requiring circulators to read the object statement on the petition to every potential signer of the initiative or referendum; and

(3) Studying what are appropriate requirements for the petition circulators, such as residency requirements.

The Secretary of State, along with other interested

parties, will be invited to participate in this study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.