



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 501

Chairperson: Bill Avery
Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 25, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 501 amends current statutes in three areas.

The first area is the budget override language in §13-519 (3). The current statute provides that the special election is to be held within 15 days after the receipt of a governing body resolution or legal voter petition. LB 501 would change the timing of the special election to within 30 days after the receipt of a governing body resolution or legal voter petition.

The second change in LB 501 is an expansion of the "by mail only" precincts found in §32-960. Current statute allows counties of 7000 or less to apply to the Secretary of State for permission to conduct elections in small and remote precincts by mail only. There are 50 counties with a population of 7000 or less. LB501 would allow applications from counties with less than 10,000 residents. Increasing the population threshold to less than 10,000 would add 18 more counties to the "by mail only" election option.

The final changes are in §77-27,142.02 and §77-27,142.03. LB 501 requires notice to election officials by March 1 prior to a primary election and by September 1 prior to general election. It would require subdivisions that place a sales and use tax question on the ballot to provide a resolution at least 50 days before a special election. The current time frame is 41 days. LB 501 also requires qualified electors' petitions to a governing body requesting an election on a sales and use tax question to be submitted at least 75 days prior to the primary, general or special election.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Kate Sullivan