

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB499

Hearing Date: Wednesday February 02, 2011
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Price
One Liner: Change provisions relating to filing for office, registering to vote, and voting under the Election Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Avery, Brasch, Janssen, Pahls, Price, Schumacher, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting: 1 Senator Karpisek

Proponents: Senator Scott Price Neal Erickson	Representing: Introducer Secretary of State
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 499 makes several changes to the Election Act, including:

- Prohibiting elected officials from filing for an office if they hold the office and their term of office expires after the beginning of the term of office for which they would be filing;
- Requiring a sample copy of a petition for nomination is filed with the filing officer prior to circulating the petition. Currently, the petition for nomination is given to the filing officer after signatures have been gathered;
- Requiring each sheet of a petition to contain signatures from the same county;
- Requiring completed petitions to be submitted to the election commissioner or county clerk as one document;
- Requiring affidavits to remove a person's name from a petition to be submitted prior to or on the day the petition is filed for verification. Currently, such affidavits need to be filed prior to or on the day of the petition filing deadline;
- Changing provisions on military voters to include voters who are absent from the state, in addition to military voters outside the United States;
- Changing the deadline for mailing registration applications for persons who request an early ballot but are not registered to the third Friday preceding the election. Currently, the deadline is the second Friday preceding the election; and

- Clarifying that a registered voter who is present in the county on the day of the election will vote at his or her polling place, unless he or she is returning a ballot for early voting or has designated the ballot to be picked up by an agent.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment eliminates two provisions from the original bill.

First, the provision that each sheet of a petition contain signatures from the same county is eliminated.

Also eliminated is the provision that completed petitions be submitted to the election commissioner or county clerk as one document.

Bill Avery, Chairperson