

Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB367

Chairperson: Senator John Murante

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: 2/18/2015

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

In Nebraska's unique system of government, the Unicameral Legislature is one house, while the citizens of Nebraska are the second house. The Founding Fathers of Nebraska made this clear in Article III of the Nebraska Constitution; where in Section 1 legislative authority is vested in the Legislature and the power of initiative and referendum is vested in the people.

In Section 2, "The first power reserved by the people is the initiative whereby laws may be enacted and constitutional amendments adopted by the people independently of the Legislature." It is our duty as State Senators to protect the right of the Nebraska's citizens to petition their government.

This bill will reestablish free market principles about how petition circulators are paid. No obstacles should be allowed that limits a citizen's access to a petition to sign. Current law restricts how a petition drive can hire circulators by prohibiting certain commission based payment arrangements. This bill allows any person or group commencing a petition drive to choose how to pay their petition circulators, be it hourly or commission based.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Mike Groene