

March 21, 1983

LB 308

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay. When did it change to four wards?

SENATOR ABBOUD: Back in 19...well, the law was changed back in 1981, I believe.

SENATOR HIGGINS: How did it come about being changed?

SENATOR ABBOUD: Well, there was a bill that was introduced by...three years ago by Senator Koch and there was a problem in that it was mandated that there had to be eight councilmen for a first class city which put a burden on the first class cities. So what the bill did was reduce the amount of councilmen making the flexibility so they could have the four or they could have the eight wards. In addition to that, basically as an afterthought, they also included in there that they didn't have to have the four wards. It only required the minimum of two.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So basically the Legislature then took away...

SENATOR ABBOUD: Yes, the Legislature took it away. The people did not have a chance to vote whether they wanted these wards taken away. It was taken away by the Legislature three years ago.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I see. So what you are trying to do now is to bring it back to the way it was before it was taken away from the people by the Legislature...

SENATOR ABBOUD: Right.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...without a vote of the people?

SENATOR ABBOUD: Correct.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote. The question is to cease debate. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Newell, did you wish to close on your amendment? Did you wish to close, Senator Newell?