

January 10, 1984

LB 623

than 70 days before the election. LB 623 would change that to 60 days. Section 9 permits election workers who work more than twelve hours on election days to vote by absentee ballots. Now currently we use the word "officials" although we have always meant that to include staff. There have been some questions raised as to whether or not that needs to be more completely defined. I can add the note that one of the amendments which will be offered makes explicit that officials means not only the election officials themselves, the County Clerk if you will, but their staff. Poll workers who are going to be working twelve hours or more can vote by absentee ballots now in the event the amendment and the bill are passed. Section 12 sets the specific date, that being the fifth Wednesday after an election for automatic recounts for candidates required to file with the Secretary of State. So far no existing statutory requirement has been given. In other races the recounts would have to be made as soon as possible after the adjournment of the County Canvassing Board. Section 11 is amended so that only in elections in which more than 500 votes are cast would a margin of victory of one percent or less automatically trigger a recount. There are many elections in which there are less than 500 votes cast and the one percent difference between candidates triggers an automatic recount but because of the relatively small number of votes what might be a very real margin, 25 votes for example, in such a race would still not be significant enough to escape the provision of automatic triggering of recounts. In all other elections that triggering percentage is two percent. In other words for small elections, 500 votes or less, the trigger is reduced from two to one percent. In all other elections the existing two percent trigger mechanism is maintained. Those are the provisions that remain in LB 623 and I would be happy to explain the amendment that I offer, Mr. President, if you would like me to do so at this time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I believe, Senator Landis, that by the order of the amendments we should take Senator Labedz's amendment first. Senator Labedz. Do you need to read amendment, Mr. Clerk? Okay, Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. As you recall yesterday we had a lengthy discussion on LR 20 constitutional amendment. It was discussed and mentioned