

Nelson, Labeledz and Hall. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 22 of last year, referred to the Government Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Government Committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, good bill, reported out unanimously by the committee with a few amendments and if you get a chance to look at the list of proponents you will see that Senator Arlene Nelson was followed by Steve Wiitala, Gordon McDonald, Rudy Peralez, DiAnna Schimek, Bill Shoehigh and the state student association representative, Deb Chapelle. This bill permits an election commissioner or a county clerk to deputize somebody to go out and sit under the eaves of the grocery store and accept registrations to vote. Oftentimes there are places that are desirous of having somebody from the election commissioner's office come out and accept registrations and the election commissioner's office will not have a sufficient personnel to perform the task. For that reason, where there are volunteers and in Lincoln for example, it has quite commonly been the League of Women Voters who provided the volunteers. Where there are volunteers, this statute permits the election commissioner to train and deputize individuals to go out and accept registrations off the premises of the county courthouse. The amendments that have been added by the committee were suggested by several of the proponents before the committee. They provide for an application form which then will be prescribed for election commissioners or county clerks to use and on that form there is to be a fixed site for registration, dates and times listed. So it is not just a blanket deputization. It is for a specific time and place. Secondly, that there will be a training session not to exceed four hours in length in which the deputy is told how to perform this function. Third, that the registration must be done by teams of two persons not of the same political party to keep the electoral process nonpartisan and balanced. Fourth, that there be no electioneering within 50 feet of registration sites. Fifth, that any deputy who violates the registration procedure may be removed from their status as a deputy and, lastly, that this form of deputized registration will stop by 6:00 p.m. on the third Friday preceding election. These are the amendments to LB 644. I urge their adoption and then I urge the