

advancement of this excellent piece of legislation.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz, did you wish to speak about the amendments, the committee amendments? We're discussing the committee amendments.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I will speak on the committee amendments and the bill itself. As a co-sponsor of LB 644 I urge you to adopt the committee amendments and also the advancement of the bill. Some of the testimony, as Senator Landis said, presented at the hearing came from our election commissioner from Douglas County. He stated that we in Douglas County have a very broad-based program right now outside our registration sites that are located in the schools, in service organizations, in high-rise apartments, corporations and other locations. These private registrars have saved the county a considerable amount of money and in the process more citizens have become involved in the election process. This registration process should be available to more people all over the State of Nebraska. LB 644 will guarantee that a deputy will be properly trained in registration procedures and most important of all, the safeguards in effect to ensure honesty and integrity. I urge the adoption of the amendment and the advancement of LB 644.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall, then Senator Higgins on the amendments, please.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I would just urge the body to adopt the committee amendments which in essence become the bill. I think Senator Landis and his committee did an excellent job reworking the bill, plugging up the few minor holes that it may have had, that specifically being that the people who are going to be gathering these names for voter registration will be trained, they will not go out there, they must go out in pairs from separate...two people from separate parties, one Democrat, one Republican. No shenanigans can go on after the committee has really, I think, put together a very good piece of legislation and I would urge the body to support the committee amendments and then support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to wait to speak on the bill, but Senator Hall or Senator