

January 14, 1986 LB 644

Landis, one of them said the committee amendments basically are the bill. I would like to tell you why I support this bill. I had met with...

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) There is too much frivolity in the center aisle. Would you please hold it down so we can hear the speakers on the floor this afternoon. Thank you, gentlemen. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Two years ago I spoke with our election commissioner in Douglas County and told him of a practice that had been going on in certain nursing homes, whereby the administrator of the nursing home would call up the election commissioner and say we need forty or fifty disabled ballots. The first year Wiitala was the election commissioner he started getting those calls, but he took the League of Women Voters and they supplied him with volunteers and he sent two women to each nursing home, one Republican and one Democrat to go and help those people vote that were blind or nearly blind or for some reason or another could not do it by themselves. Perhaps they'd had a stroke and couldn't use their hand. And afterwards he called me and he said, you know, Marge, I can't believe it. This one nursing home requested 40 disabled ballots but when our volunteers got there, there were only 20 to vote. Some of them were comatose and couldn't even vote. God knows who had been voting for those people before, but I think this is an excellent bill and it's an excellent way to put a check and put a stop on some people being able to cast more than one vote and that's why I would urge the adoption of this bill. And I may look it over and on Select File offer an amendment making it mandatory that when it comes to nursing homes there have to be two volunteers representing each party to do this. So I do hope the bill will be advanced. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? If not...okay, Senator Landis, did you wish to close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR LANDIS: I move the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. Senator Nelson, for what purpose did you rise?