

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me just speak briefly in favor of this, Mr. Speaker, and to put this into perspective. If Senator Johnson, in his law practice, wants to initiate a new lawsuit in federal court or in state court, there is nothing to prevent him from preparing the papers in his office and mailing the entire lawsuit in with a filing fee. We do that all the time in our office. A lot of attorneys do. This would extend to the citizen in the small claims context the privilege that attorneys have throughout the state and throughout the history of litigation, as far as I know, to mail their lawsuits...to file their lawsuits by mail just for the convenience of everyone involved. So I think it makes good sense and would encourage the body to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, would you like to close? The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill is advanced. Move on to LB 483.

CLERK: 483, offered by Senator Withem. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 21, referred to Urban Affairs, advanced to General File with committee amendments attached, Mr. President.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, beginning with the committee amendments, which, in effect, become the bill so I will once again try to explain both at the same time to save time. LB 483 was a bill that I introduced at the request of some SID trustee sorts of folks who thought it would help participation in their elections, if their elections were held at the same time as general elections. LB 483, in its original form, did that. It was a well meaning piece of legislation, at least, I think I meant well with it. As it turned out though, the complications of doing that, having SID elections the same time as general elections, would probably have been more trouble than it was worth. Part of the reason for that is the eligible electors differ from SID elections and general elections. However, at the hearing we did come across a couple of problems that folks are having with SID elections and so that is what 483 does. The committee amendments then