

**ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB399**

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**Hearing Date:** Wednesday February 02, 2011  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Avery  
**One Liner:** Change the number of signatures needed for nomination petitions

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Avery, Brasch, Janssen, Karpisek, Pahls, Price, Schumacher, Sullivan

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Proponents:**

Senator Bill Avery  
Neal Erickson

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Secretary of State

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 399 changes the signature requirements for nomination by petition of certain offices for the general election.

Under current law, there is a distribution requirement of obtaining at a certain number of signatures from each county when a candidate for nonpartisan office wants to place his or her name on the general election ballot. LB 399 eliminates the distribution requirement. With the elimination, the standard becomes at least 10% of the registered voters voting for Governor or President in the last election, not to exceed 2000 signatures. The distribution requirement for the Board of Regents is also eliminated under the bill.

Similarly, for statewide partisan candidates who want to place their name on the general election ballot, there is current distribution requirement that signatures be obtained from one third of the counties in the state. With LB 399, the standard for partisan statewide offices is at least 4000 signatures, and at least 750 signatures will be obtained in each congressional district.

The bill has an emergency clause.

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