

**ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB575**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 05, 2015  
**Committee On:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Introducer:** Murante  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to ballots for early voting, write-in candidates, and filling vacancies

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	7	Senators Bloomfield, Craighead, Garrett, Groene, Hansen, Larson, Murante
<b>Nay:</b>		
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator McCoy
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Verbal Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator John Murante  
Neal Erickson  
David Shively  
Wayne Bena  
Larry Dix  
Bri McLarty

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Secretary of State  
Lancaster County Election Commissioner  
Sarpy County Election Commissioner  
Nebraska Association of County Officials  
Nebraskans for Civic Reform

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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

Legislative Bill 575 provides for a number of changes to election law. Among these changes: LB 575 clarifies vacancies for all elected offices must be filled within 45 days, replaces "a majority" with "one-half or more" for vacancies that trigger special election, replaces "ten days" prior to election with "second Friday" as deadline for write in affidavits, and allows early voting requests to be submitted via e-mail.

The bill also requires voter history to be completed within 30 days rather than 60 after election, removes outdated language regarding county commissioners, closes potential for fusion candidates, removes primary election information from Early Voter return envelopes, and adds language allowing the Nebraska Secretary of State to designate a meeting location within the State Capitol for the State Canvassing Board meetings.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee amended LB 575 in the following ways:

The Committee amended LB 575 with language from LB 578, which amends 11 sections of Election Law. The most significant changes are: Section 3: Allows poll workers to choose not to be paid or allocate their pay to an organization

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contracted with the Election Commissioner/County Clerk to recruit poll works for an election. Section 5: Allows Elections officials and members of Law Enforcement to make copies of a voter's registration form for list maintenance and law enforcement purposes. Section 8: Allows for the removal of certain information on an Early Ballot Application. Section 10: Provides clarification on what election items are not subject to inspection until an Election Contest has been filed. Section 11: Raises the minimum rate that a political subdivision can be charge for an election from 50 to 100 dollars.

LB 575 was also amended to include LB 514, which amends Nebraska Revised Statute 32-942 by adding an option for voters who wish to register to vote and vote early on the same day. The voter will have the ability to provide an address confirmation document as prescribed in 32-318.01. Voters will be able to choose either option under this bill. The bill also adds language exempting a ballot mailed to a voter as prescribed by 32-945 from this process.

The Committee amended LB 575 with sections of LB 319, which would expand special election by mail provisions to include additional types of elections. The amendment would permit special elections involving candidates as well.

Finally, the Committee amended Section 32-710 to remove the word "postprimary" and amends 32-304 to change the date from July 1, 2015 to September 1, 2015 for the Secretary of State to implement a statewide registration application process to register to vote and update voter registration records electronically.

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John Murante, Chairperson