

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB659

Chairperson: Senator Rita Sanders

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: February 20, 2025

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB659 enhances election security and transparency by mandating three independent tests of vote counting devices before ballot processing. These tests must be conducted by (1) the election commissioner or county clerk, (2) the chief deputy election commissioner or a registered voter of a different political party, and (3) the person who installed or operates the vote counting device. Additionally, each political party is entitled to appoint one watcher—credentialed by the county central committee—to observe the testing process, with unobstructed access provided via closed-circuit television if in-person observation is restricted. The bill also requires election officials to certify the completion of the pre-election testing to the Secretary of State, who will publicly post the results on their website.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Bob Andersen