

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

LB 339

The proposed legislation would amend Article VI, Sections 1, 5, and 6 and repeal section 4 of the Constitution of Nebraska. Section 1 would be changed to eliminate the six months residency requirement for voting and permit the time requirement to be as provided by law.

Obsolete language relating to elections not being obligated to do military duty on election day was stricken from Section 5.

Section 6 currently provides that all votes shall be by ballot. The new language would permit other means for the electorate to vote as authorized by the Legislature provided that secrecy be preserved.

The repeal of section 4 eliminates a provision of the Constitution that military personnel shall not be considered residents merely by being stationed in the state.

The general effect of this bill is to revise residency requirements for voting and permit statutory law to govern the residency requirement; to remove archaic language designed to insure that the electorate would not be denied the right to vote by routine military service on election days; to provide for alternate systems to voting by ballot and to remove the constitutional provision that military personnel stationed in the state does not in itself establish residency.

Senator Syas introduced the bill in the absence of Senator Whitney, principal introducer. Testifying in favor of the bill was Ralph Englert, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of State, and Dorris Marxhausen of Seward.

There was no opposition to the bill and the bill came out of committee with 5 Ayes, 2 Absent. Senators voting Aye: Syas, Barnett, Burbach, Moylan, Snyder. Those absent: Simpson, Stromer.


George Syas, Chairman

Feb. 15, 1971