

1262 of the Legislative Journal is the amendment that Senator Sieck and myself are proposing. Now we debated this issue somewhat extensively last week, and so I'll be brief in my remarks today. Last week Senator Chambers and I attempted to continue a provision in existing law which prohibited deputy sheriffs from participating in campaigns generally around the state. All this amendment does is it prohibits deputy sheriffs from participating in the campaigns for their direct employers. It permits deputy sheriffs to work in campaigns at the federal level, at the state level, at the county and city level. It simply prohibits them from working in campaigns in which their boss is directly affected. Now, yesterday Senator Sieck distributed an editorial from one of the Lincoln papers which illustrates the problem we have, and that editorial addressed itself specifically to a problem we had in the last general election here in Lancaster County, and I think as a result of that particular dispute in that election Lancaster County lost the services of several experienced, professional, competent deputy sheriffs, who were literally forced out of office by virtue of their involvement in that confusing and mixed up political race. Now the central problem comes when we have an incumbent sheriff who is running for reelection. Now in most cases the deputies in his particular office are going to be under considerable pressure to help him in his election. The sheriff will do all he can directly and indirectly to get his deputies out to work for him, to help him build yard signs, to help him put those yard signs up, to contribute, etc. Now, it's for that reason that this bill, without the amendment, becomes an incumbent protection bill, because the challenger for that office, the man who's running against the sheriff, doesn't have an immediate staff of deputy sheriffs to help run his campaign for him, but the bill without the amendment presents a second problem, and the problem is the dilemma that it presents for any deputies. Now, if a deputy decides to support his boss, and work hard in his campaign, obviously he's going to make the opponent mad. So if the opponent wins, why that deputy's tenure with the office is likely to be short-lived. On the other hand, if he supports the challenger against the wishes of his boss, and his boss wins, why his tenure is likewise going to be short-lived. I think that the best solution is to simply take deputy sheriffs out of those elections completely, because if we don't do it, the same thing will happen that happened in Lancaster County this last November. We're going to lose a lot of good experienced deputy sheriffs, and I think the crux of the issue is that deputies are hired as highly paid, highly trained law enforcement officers. They're not