

take the fall and the spring static water levels and the measurements thereof in our state. They are continuing a study of water quality as it affects the ground water use in our state and they are getting out information on new and technological developments regarding more efficient use of water such as checking deficiency of the power units and the bowl setting, the trim of the bowls and anything like that that has to do with more efficient use of this important resource. In the hearing conducted by the Public Works Committee there was wide support, not only of the ground water district membership, I mean the board of directors, but also by the NRDs. They felt they needed them. Now the NRDs that we are talking about, at least in the Upper Big Blue, are not assessing their full mill levy and they will have to, if we take these people out of the picture. They are performing an important service and it is supplementive to what the NRDs are doing and I feel it is not necessary to go the vote of the public. The public has not objected, at least not at the hearing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to ask Senator Maresh a question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Do you have any idea what this will cost to put it on the ballot within a given area?

SENATOR MARESH: It will be during the regular ballot so it will be just the printing of the ballots. It will be during the fall election, the general election and I don't think elections cost. I think they provide a service to the people. I think we would hate to do away with our election process. I think elections are cheap for the... allow people to get involved in government. I think this is an important issue when we are talking about tax dollars with duplication of services and I think...what my problem is, Senator Sieck, that if these districts are really performing a good function why don't we allow new ones to form and that is my problem. Why not open up the process again to let new districts to be formed?

SENATOR SIECK: Do you feel that this amendment would do this, allow new ones to form?