

political subdivision was seeking to impose a lid, you would have a percentage formula which is consistent regardless of the subdivision seeking to impose the lid. I just thought I would bring that to your attention for the record.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I know we are pressed for time on this issue but given the importance of the issue I think it is important that we take the time to handle it correctly. When one looks at the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, Section 2, Article 3, one will find that with respect to the initiative, the requirement there is that the petition for the initiative be signed by 7% of the electors of the state. Now that doesn't mean 7% of those who voted for the Governor in the last election. Rather, it is 7% of the electors of the state. Electors, electors are different from those that voted for the Governor in the last election. Now in connection with the lid bill, LB 2, we have there dealt with registered voters, number of registered voters in the particular subdivision. The biggest problem with the use of that language incidentally, is that one cannot be certain as of which day, as of which day the numbers of registered voters shall count. Obviously voter registrations fluctuate up and down. You have people coming in one day and registering to vote and you have them dying off I suppose and moving away so that you don't have quite as many registered voters and that is one of the drawbacks. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee never quite worked it out but we wanted simply to use a language that had been in LB 2. On the other hand, we ourselves, we didn't amend 627 but we did amend 609 which contained some of the provisions 627, dropping the requirement from 15% to 7%. We took 7% simply because that is a percentage figure used in the Nebraska Constitution for the initiative process and it seemed to us to be a fair number. I should also point out that when LB 2 was originally proposed it went to the Government, Military and Veterans' Committee. At that time they recommended the 7% figure. That just happened to be rejected on the floor of the Legislature. The committee amendment was not approved. 7% is the way to go.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, are you ready for your amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I made one error. I said one thing and meant another. The 7% is of registered voters as it is in the bill. I am only changing the number fifteen to seven as it is consistently throughout. I made a mistake and I am sorry.