

March 18, 1981

LB 17

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move for the adoption of the committee amendments. The committee amendments do two things. It does change from the original bill from 15% to 7% of the required number of petition signatures. I think the committee felt that 15 was too much to ask and require and they voted to support 7%. The second change was to reduce from 120 days to 90 days, the minimum time prior to the affected budget year when an election is held. 120 days was quite a while ahead of the budget period as it was originally drafted. They felt that 90 days was ample and would give plenty of time for..to be held prior to the budget process. So I guess these are, I don't know whether you would want to call them compromise amendments but at least are a change from the original bill that does, in the eyes of the committee, make a little better sense. I would move the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch, you have an amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch has an amendment to the committee amendments found on page 871 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have talked to Senator Carsten about this amendment since he is a cosponsor with me and the amendment would amend the committee amendments to 10% of the voters in order to initiate a petition and I do this, I think, with considerable supporting background in terms of our own statutes because presently we have any number of statutes that deal with local subdivisions of government and how we initiate a petition. First of all Section 18-102 requires that a petition for a city initially be signed by 15% of the registered voters and this is generally where this action is going to take place because that is the most appropriate place to initiate a local option on limitations. And Section 18-113 requires that a petition for a city referendum be signed by 15% of the registered voters and Section 23 of our law requires that a petition for a recall of a county officer be 25% of the total number of votes cast for the last election for the Governor and Section 5-108 requires that a petition to establish or changes wards for cities, villages or counties, schools be signed by 25% of the total votes cast in the last election and in addition to that, we have Section 53-122 requires a petition for liquor by the drink be signed by 20% of the total votes cast in the last municipal election and in Section 19-4201 to 4211 relating to recall city and village board members