

April 6, 1982

LB 688

process. So it would say that the City of Lincoln, the residents of Lincoln would have the opportunity in this upcoming general election to vote on the question of whether they want district or at large elections. I am sorry I didn't explain that. I thought people were aware of what this amendment did.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, as a member of the Education Committee who doesn't happen to live in Lincoln, I have wrestled with this idea before. This is not new before that committee. The committee decided that the best way to address this situation was to give the people of Lincoln...to make certain because there was some question as to whether or not a Class IV school district, the school district in the City of Lincoln, had the ability to go the petition route by the patrons of that school district to petition for an election as to whether or not their school board members were elected by district or at large or by some combination thereof which is what they have right now. Now it was the committee's belief and it was my belief that the people of Lincoln should be the ones making that decision and not those of us on the Education Committee. Therefore, it seemed logical to me and it still does that we clarify and make certain and that is what LB 688 has in it right now, the committee amendment as it came out of committee, that they do have that right of petition, that we give the patrons of the Lincoln school district the authority to petition for an election to decide how their school board members are elected. Now what Senator Fowler is proposing is that this body circumvent that petition process and instead mandate an election to be held this fall. Now I have been told by a number of the supporters of this idea that they have a huge number of people in this school district that want district elections, and if that is the case then I submit to you that they shouldn't have any problem getting a petition circulated and getting it on the ballot. But they want this body to relieve them of that job of going out and circulating a petition. And I object to that. I don't think that we should be in a position to mandate an election to the Lincoln school district. If their own patrons are too doggone lazy to go out and carry a petition to get that on the ballot, then they should live with the system they have got now. They certainly were not lazy about coming in and lobbying those of us that are members of the Education Committee, I can assure you that. And if they

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