

amendments to LB 113. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The Clerk will record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Now we are on the bill. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I am explaining the concepts contained in LB 113 and asking for your support for the bill. First of all, a little history of this bill, it was brought last year to Senator Goodrich by the then Douglas County Election Commissioner, Lee Terry. I had a similar measure at that time introduced and we kind of combined forces last year and proposed a bill last year that would do basically this same thing. The bill made it to General File. It did not advance beyond General File primarily because there was a lot of opposition at that time from county clerks and from the Nebraska Association of County Officials. There are also some philosophical differences on this bill and those will probably still remain but this year we have had no negative comments from the county officials. We have done some things, particularly with these committee amendments, that make it easier to administer so I think the opposition is gone to this as to the mechanics of it. I will comment on those later. But now to handle the philosophical arguments on why we are doing this and why we think that this is a good idea. The election commissioners were finding in Douglas County that there were people who were coming in and not only not registering to vote but were unregistering and their purpose was not because they didn't want to vote but because they did not want to participate on a jury. Several years ago this body under the leadership of Senator Koch at that time took a good hard look at our jury provisions and tightened those up considerably and adopting the philosophical position that it is a responsibility of all members of our society to participate in this jury process. It made it much less...much more difficult to be excused from the jury participation. The reason for this is the philosophical basis of a jury is that a jury should be made up of an accused's peers. It should be made up of a cross section of our society. It should not discriminate against any particular individual in terms of participation, in terms of their likelihood to be chosen. The United States Supreme