

May 5, 1981

LR 85  
LB 209

CLERK: Yes, sir, if I may. Mr. President, I have two letters from the Governor making certain gubernatorial appointments to the Public Employees Retirement Board and to the Safety Center Advisory Council. (See pages 1753 and 1754, Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, I have a new resolution, LR 85 introduced by Senator Lamb who is Chairman of the Executive Board. (Read. See page 1755, Legislative, Journal.) This will be referred to the Executive Board for reference, Mr. President.

Mr. President, with respect to LB 209, it is a bill offered by Senator Koch. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 15 for the first time. It was referred to the Government Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by Senator Kahle's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle on committee amendments.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, LB 309 (sic) as introduced attempts to accomplish three major things. The major thing would be to adopt a September rather than a May primary date for the statewide primary held every two years. Because the September primary would be after the national convention during presidential election years, every four years the state would hold a presidential preference primary in May. Finally, LB 209 would allow registered independents to receive any party's ballot in the primary. The committee amendments eliminate everything in the bill except for the September primary. The cost of this separate presidential preference primary every four years is estimated to cost the counties one million dollars. We considered this too high of a cost so the separate primary has been removed from the committee amendments. The result is that delegates to national conventions will be selected by party rules. We have also deleted provisions allowing independents to receive a party ballot. Recent court decisions question the constitutionality of this procedure. Except for some changes in the reporting requirements under the Political...I believe that is all of the committee amendments. This deals with Political Accountability. Perhaps I should maybe relate. Except for some changes, the reporting requirements under the Political Accountability Law, all that is left in this bill is the issue of September primary. If this bill is passed in 1982, the statewide primary would be held in September rather than in May. Those political subdivisions that do not hold their election at the May primary time like cities and school districts are not affected by this bill. They will continue to hold their primary and general