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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

23999

2007 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SB 2399

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2399

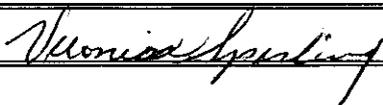
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/01/07

Recorder Job Number: 2536, 2537

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

All members of the committee were present.

Sen. Dever, Chairman, opened the hearing on SB 2399.

Senator David P. O'Connell introduced the bill. See attachment #1. He mentioned that county auditors told him they wanted this bill to pass so if a ballot box is full and gets jammed, they can open it up.

Senator Dever asked if this means during the election process.

Senator O'Connell said it would be during the election and for 22 months after.

Opposition:- Al Jaeger, Secretary of State, spoke in opposition to the bill. He mentioned that a law passed in 2003 allows poll workers on Election Day to take care of a jam. He is not sure why the auditors do not know that. He expressed some concern that this bill would undo what 3 bills in the house have accomplished. He was concerned about the security of the ballots.

The wording of this bill left it too open.

There was discussion about how there could be confusion about the auditors not being aware that they are considered election officials. There was discussion about the three election bills that are now in the House and that it would be helpful if they would know about them when they are related to bills being considered in the Senate.

Al Jaeger said they try to group them appropriately.

There was discussion about why precincts exist and the purpose they serve. Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State, said political parties can do studies of how people in the precincts voted. This information can be used by candidates to know where to concentrate their campaign efforts. There used to be 2200 precincts and now there are about 550.

Senator Horne asked if this bill was unnecessary because of a law that was passed in 2003.

Al Jaeger said it was already law because of a bill passed in 2005. He asked for a do not pass.

Jim Silrum said if it were passed, it would require a number of amendments to be drawn up.

Chairman Dever closed the hearing on SB 2399.

A do not pass motion was made by Senator Nelson.

Senator Lee seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 6 No 0 Absent 0

Carrier: Judy Lee

Date: 2-1-07
Roll Call Vote #: 2 |

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2399

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken do not pass

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dick Dever - Chairman	✓		Senator Robert Horne	✓	
Senator Dave Oehike - VC	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Judy Lee	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment J. Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 1, 2007 5:06 p.m.

Module No: SR-22-1864
Carrier: J. Lee
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2399: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SB 2399 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SB 2399

Attach #1

SB 2399 Summary

Senator David P. O'Connell

A bill that amends current North Dakota Century Code

Allows county auditors or other election officials to examine paper ballots for voting or counting irregularities.