



**From the Office of Secretary of State  
Robert B. Evnen**

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## **Secretary of State Evnen praises bipartisan work in the Nebraska Legislature**

LINCOLN – Secretary of State Robert Evnen expressed his appreciation to the Unicameral for its passage of LB 411, a priority bill of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, on a 46-0 vote. Secretary Evnen stated, “The passage of LB 411 is a terrific example of a bipartisan effort that makes elections better for Nebraskans.” Secretary Evnen continued, “I am very pleased with the work that went into this bill.” He thanked Speaker Jim Sheer of Norfolk, and Senators Tom Brewer and Andrew La Grone, chair and vice chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

LB 411 is a combination of several legislative bills. Secretary Evnen requested the introduction of two of those bills and he worked with sponsors of five others. “I would like to thank the Senators who introduced bills related to the Secretary of State’s office that became part of this omnibus elections bill,” Secretary Evnen said. Among the provisions of LB 411 are these:

- The requirement of 4,000 petition signatures for a registered nonpartisan to gain access to the ballot in a statewide partisan race has been reinstated. Improvements have been made to the initiative referendum signature verification process, and petition sponsors must certify that their statewide petition contains the minimum number of signatures required.
- The bill includes a number of other technical and timing changes that make the election process more straightforward for county election officials. The bill clarifies and makes clear the requirement that candidates must be residents of Nebraska to run for a Nebraska office.
- Prohibiting language electioneering at the polls is clearly defined in the bill, striking a balance between our crucial First Amendment rights and the right to be free from electioneering when voting.
- Requirements for access to polling places for disabled voters is reaffirmed in the bill, and provisions are made for further training of poll workers regarding requirements for access. “Providing access to polling places for our disabled voters is one of our most important responsibilities,” Evnen said, “and along with that, effective training for our poll workers is also critical.”

“I am hopeful and optimistic that the Governor will look favorably on this legislation and will sign it into law,” Evnen said. Information regarding legislative bills can be found on the Nebraska Legislature website. <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

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