

February 12, 1971

PRESIDENT: We're ready for the consideration of bills on General File. We'll move to LB222, 40 then 48.

(End of belt #1)

Ready for the consideration of LB126.

CLERK: Read title. LB 126

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I move that the committee amendment be adopted. All it does is to clarify the age that a legislator has to be at the time of the election. It means that he can file and run for the Legislature when he's 20 years of age, but he has to be 21 as of November 3, the date of the election. I move that the committee amendment be accepted.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion of the amendment? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would just like to ask why since 20 is the age of legal majority in the state now he would have to be 21 when he is elected?

SENATOR WHITNEY: That is a good question Senator Chambers. The Constitutional Revision Commission felt that a legislator should be 21 years of age in order to be a State Senator. Now, in the past the Constitution has said that all he has to be an elector and a definition of an elector in the past has been a person who is 21 years of age. The Commission felt that we should not reduce that to 20 nor should we reduce it possibly to 18 when people may be given the right to vote at age 18. They felt that to be sufficiently mature, to be a State Senator, that the age should be 21 when a legislator would be voted upon on November 3.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I have to state that I oppose this amendment because as far as the age is concerned, if a person has the legal right to enter into contracts or to vote then I think he is old enough to hold any office for which he is old enough to vote for somebody else. Because in order to vote he has to be theoretically, at least, in a position to judge the responsibilities of that office as well as the qualifications of the individual for whom he is voting. From my personal observations here, I think 20 is plenty mature to sit in this particular body.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President we have age limits for President of the United States as I recall 36 years of age, we have other age limits for officers and I think it should be done here in this body.