

elected Secretary of State says he will carry out.

SENATOR MURPHY: He would, of course in fact, be recommending it to the county clerks who would do the verifying.

SENATOR CULLAN: Thank you, Senator Murphy. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Murphy, and I commend him for bringing this to the body. I think this is a very serious change and I disagree very sharply with Senator Marsh. All that is necessary under this bill, or one thing that can be accomplished, is simply to get in excess of twelve percent of signatures, whether they're valid or whether they're not, and then you have some degree of surety that they're not even going to be examined. I think this is a very serious change. I think it is a mistake that can lead to frivolous issues being placed on the ballot without the signatures of registered voters as required by law. I think we are inviting abuse if we adopt...if we do not adopt the Murphy amendments, and I, for one, Senator Marsh, could not vote for this bill if this amendment is not adopted. So I would urge you to bring this bill back, adopt the Murphy amendments and I would say that if that is not done we will have to take some more action on the entire bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the two relevant portions of the language in the bill that strike me appear on Pages 25 and 22. The obligation to check signatures is on Page 22 of the bill. It's existing law, lines 17 through 22 or 3, roughly. The county clerk or Election Commissioner shall forthwith compare each signature of the electors signing and the circulator upon each of such pages of the petition with the voter registration records, etc. There's the obligation that currently exists to check records. It is not my understanding that every signature of every petition is checked. Once the maximum is reached, I believe that's it. They verify the petition and they put it on the ballot. It's not my understanding that in the instance offered by Senator Keyes where 80,000 signatures are turned in for a requirement of 40,000, that once that 40,000 of verified signatures is met that they continue working to see all 80,000 are accurate signatures. I think that's a bogus argument. Taking a look on Page 25, however, look at the language that we're passing with this bill. Verification of signatures on petitions shall not be required, when the signatures on the petitions exceed the required number of