

well as a couple of other items I'll refer to here in a second. What we really have here is a situation where we had two bills introduced, one by Senator Schimek, one introduced by Senator Withem that were heard by the Government Committee. We also had about a dozen other bills sent to our committee this year relative to election law and concerns that sprung from many of the questions and questionable situations that we experienced in the last election, the District 30 contest, the recounts, the time it took to do the Democratic candidate for Governor during the primary. We had all kinds of concerns and situations that came about. And as we analyzed a lot of that information we came to the realization that we really needed something in place to help the situation out. And what that consensus seemed to be, as brought forth by Senator Schimek's LB 87 and Senator Withem's LB 580, was an election commission, if you will, or a State Election Board, some entity that is responsible for elections, some entity that has a full-time working person who is in a position to do various opinions relative to situations that are raised by the 93 county individuals who are working on elections and also a commission that basically people could work with who could promulgate rules and regulations, that could standardize, that could take a change that one county may want in the way they issue their ballots and the way that they handle their processes due to technological changes and qualify that information in such a way of giving that county a green light or a red light relative to that technique so that it doesn't run counter to some situation that we have in our election laws that maybe were written at the time of when paper ballot was the only technique involved; and so someone to continue to work that process, someone who brings back statutory requests on the part of the Legislature to make changes to update the program, but somebody to oversee that situation, and so that is where we came up with the idea and said the first thing we have to have in place is a body, an entity of that nature. Then we can take the other issues. We can take the omnibus election law codification study that was prompted by Senator Baack and we can then hand that over to this commission and say, here is a work product that has many hours of work, has many excellent ideas and changes and blend that in with other ideas that you may have, bring it back to us on January, hopefully of next year, with statutory changes that are necessary and then we can act on those and we'll be ready to go into the next election with this body working in force. In a minute there you will see another amendment requesting an E clause so that we can put this thing on board. The Governor can make the various appointments to