

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, this appears to be one of those kind of bills where we have a series of amendments to amendments and it may be a while before we actually get to the point of discussing the concept of the bill. So I am going to speak to the question of adding the emergency clause which I think is a good idea. LB 579 was my bill, continues to be my bill. I am one of the sponsors of it, but Senator Conway is rather slowly becoming the chief sponsor of this which I think is appropriate. I'm supporting the emergency clause and the Conway amendment. I think one of the things we found in our look at election laws over the last two or three years is that maybe it's not so much the laws themselves that need updating as we need a better system for making law, or for interpreting and administering the election laws. I think what Senator Conway has drafted here is a good approach. I'll be very honest with him and with other members of the body, had I been drafting it I might have had a somewhat different model than the one he chose. I think what he has chosen as a model are other state boards such as the Real Estate Commission, the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. I may have chosen the model of the locally appointed election commissioners as my model, but I think that is splitting hairs somewhat. I think that what Senator Conway has drafted here is an excellent approach. I'd urge you to add the emergency clause and then amend the Conway amendment into LB 579.

SENATOR MORRISSEY PRESIDING

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Wesely, would you like to speak to the amendment to the amendment? Senator Wesely waives. Senator Warner. Senator Coordsen. Senator Chambers. Would anyone else care to speak to the amendment to the amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Conway. Senator Conway waives...

SENATOR CONWAY: Excuse me, rather than waive off, so some people are a little bit confused, what we are going to be voting on is simply at this point the E clause. I think in our discussion, if we're going to do this it is imperative to do it as soon as we can and following through on that standard rather than having to wait until later into the summer before the commissioners would be appointed. So that's what we're asking for now, simply the E clause.