

are not members of a political party and...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...if there were to be an independent party, probably a lot of those independent voters might affiliate with it, although I doubt it very much. There is a provision in here, or there is a possibility in here that at least one of the members could be an independent if the Governor so chose and that is the chairperson of the commission could be appointed an independent and I see you smiling and it could be that is unlikely. You are absolutely right. But since the independents do make up a rather small portion of the electorate otherwise, I'm not certain that ratiowise that there needs to be a provision for an independent, but I wouldn't be totally adverse to that idea either. It is something that we might think about. We have thought about this a lot and again a lot of this language...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...comes out of Accountability Commission statutes and it was easy to do that I guess, but I'm not adverse to thinking about the independents that you are mentioning.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. I'll now recognize Senator Haberman followed by Senator Conway.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I would like to bring to Senator Schimek's attention. She raised the question of political politics and that this would give the Republicans 5 members due to the Secretary of State being a Republican, could. And it could also give the Democrats five members if we elected a democratic Secretary of State. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam Chairman, I simply rise in support of Senator Schimek's amendment that is on the table right now before us. I think it continues to move towards that balance. Again, we've said that much of what I modeled this after was the accountability and disclosure creation of the commission. I believe Senator Chambers is going to be following in shortly with an amendment that does some clarification there.